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JULIUS CAESAR

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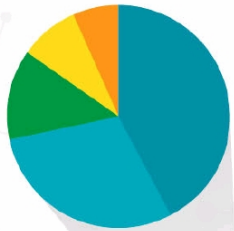
ISSUE 063

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View incredible pictures of New York City's landmarks under construction from page 62

Welcome

If you visit the ruins of the Roman Forum today, it is easy to be overawed by the faded glory of the crumbling columns, weather-beaten basilicas and sprawl of former civic buildings. But if you look past the better-preserved relics in the main square, you may notice a mound tucked behind a low wall. You'll know if you've found it because on any given day the secluded spot is piled high with bouquets of flowers, like a fresh grave.

In fact, the less scrupulous tour guides will tell you it's Caesar's grave but the Roman ruler was just cremated there and his ashes were buried in his family's tomb. Rather than a grave, this mound is what's left of the Temple of Caesar. This is where Romans would gather to worship their former leader as a god.

That a man who seized control for himself, ending democratically elected rule in favour of imperial power, can be so beloved that people still leave him offerings 2,000 years later might seem odd. However, as celebrity classicist Mary Beard – fresh from filming hit new BBC series *Civilisations* – explains in our in-depth feature, Caesar was a skilled politician who knew how to win over the people with slick sound bites and populist policies. Turn to page 32 to learn more!



Jack Parsons
Editor

Editor's picks



Father of Europe
Explore how Charlemagne reshaped Medieval Europe and became the first Holy Roman emperor.



Horrors of the asylum
Why did mental health hospitals in the 19th century go from human zoos to the talking cure?



Scourge of God
Meet Timur the Lame, a sheep rustler turned bloody butcher who inspired fear from Damascus to Delhi.

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Conquer the Saxons and bring them under your control

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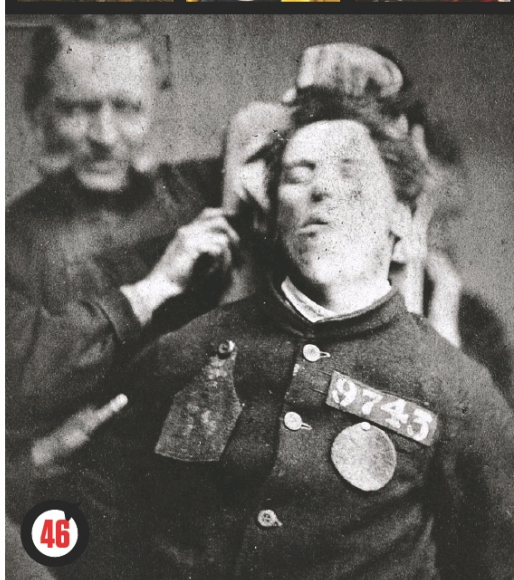
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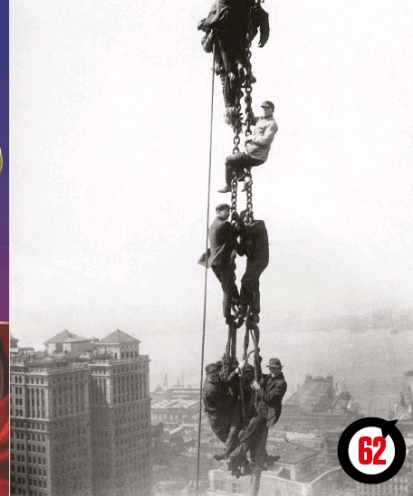
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If a young Queen Victoria had been gunned down, what would have happened to Britain?



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Hacksaw Ridge takes a turn under the microscope



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HISTORY IN PICTURES

DARING TO DREAM

Martin Luther King Jr. delivers a speech to a crowd of 7,000 in Berkeley, California. A staunch advocate of nonviolent protest against racial injustice, the Georgia-born civil rights leader led the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 and the March on Washington in 1963, where he made his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech. In 1964 he won the Nobel Peace Prize. This month marks 50 years since King's assassination by a white supremacist in Memphis on 4 April 1968.

1967

HISTORY IN COLOUR

SUMO SMACK DOWN

Japanese heavyweight wrestlers face off in a rare glimpse of the country just before its rapid industrialisation. The scene was captured by British-Italian Felice Beato, who was one of the world's first war photographers. He shot the Crimean War and rebellions of India and China before going to Japan. It was here that Beato also learnt to hand-colour his images by applying Japanese watercolour-painting and print-making techniques.

1877





HISTORY IN PICTURES

WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

As part of Hitler's 'final solution,' Polish Jews were confined to one walled-up district in Poland's capital city to await transportation to death camps. However, from 19 April 1943, the Warsaw Ghetto chose to fight back. It was ultimately a one-sided battle but rather than killing the 13,000 inhabitants in three days as planned, they held out for 28. The uprising also inspired similar rebellions in other ghettos and concentration camps.

1943

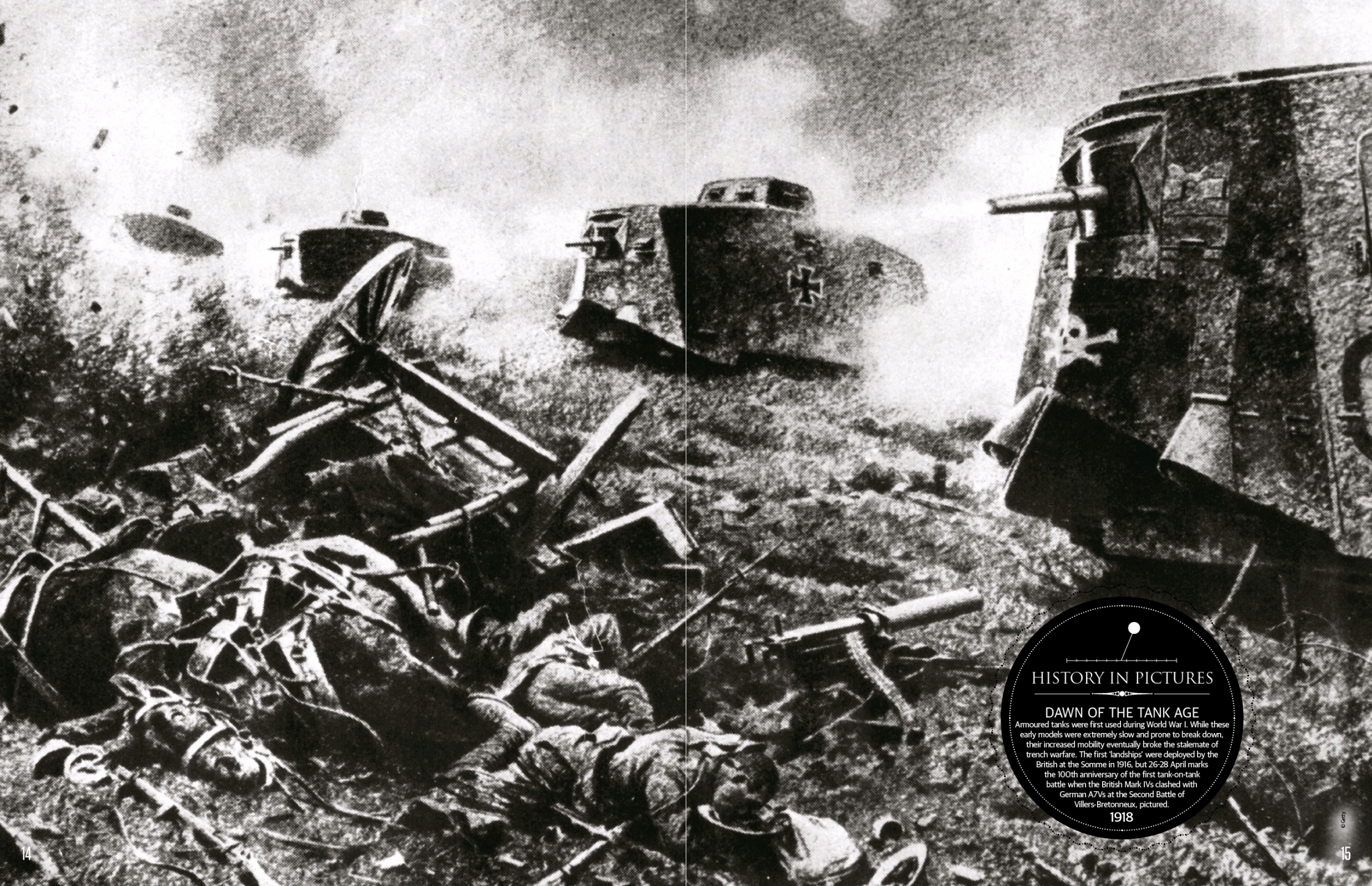


HISTORY IN COLOUR

DEATH OF FRANCO

A small boy waves the far-right Falangist flag at the funeral of Spanish dictator General Francisco Franco, who died on 20 November 1975. The authoritarian leader was buried at the Valley of the Fallen mausoleum — a colossal memorial built on the orders of the Generalissimo by political prisoners, many of whom died in the process. Franco ruled Spain for 36 years, coming to power after the Spanish Civil War.

1975



HISTORY IN PICTURES

DAWN OF THE TANK AGE

Armoured tanks were first used during World War I. While these early models were extremely slow and prone to break down, their increased mobility eventually broke the stalemate of trench warfare. The first 'landships' were deployed by the British at the Somme in 1916, but 26-28 April marks the 100th anniversary of the first tank-on-tank battle when the British Mark IVs clashed with German A7Vs at the Second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, pictured.

1918

“Right action is better than knowledge; but in order to do what is right, we must know what is right”
Charlemagne



CHARLEMAGNE

This warrior chief united Medieval Europe and presided over a cultural revival, but slaughtered Saxons and imposed his will at sword-point

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Face a Caroline Cavalryman

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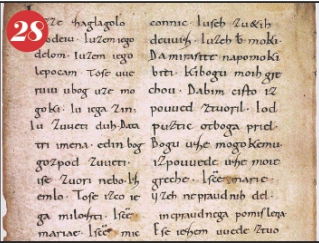
Explore the Palatine Chapel

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Battle of Roncevaux Pass

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Holy Roman Renaissance

Life and times of Charlemagne

From Frankish prince to Holy Roman Emperor, the so-called Father of Europe reshaped the continent

BIRTH OF A KING

Charlemagne was the son of Frankish king Pepin the Short. The date of Pepin's marriage to Bertrada of Laon have been reported as 741 and 749, so there is a possibility that he was illegitimate.



RISE TO POWER

Charlemagne ascended the Frankish throne jointly alongside his brother, Carloman, after the death of their father. His first son, Pepin the Hunchback, was born the same year.

The name 'Charlemagne' derives from the Old French for Charles the Great, 'Charles le Magne'.



RECONQUERING AQUITAINE

By crushing the rebellion led by Hunald II, the son of the former duke of Aquitaine, Charlemagne kept control of the duchy. Carloman refused to participate, leading to mounting hostilities between the two rulers.



RULING ALONE

After Carloman's sudden death, Charlemagne became the sole king of the Franks. Carloman's demise was convenient as the brothers were close to all-out war.



EXPANDING THE EMPIRE

Charlemagne began his campaign against the Saxons, conquering the region of Engria first. However, his attention was soon diverted two years later with his invasion of Lombardy in northern Italy.



742

768

769

771

772

FURTHER CONQUEST

Growing concerned that he needed to secure the eastern border of his empire, Charlemagne successfully battled the Avars and conquered their land along the Danube river.



MONEY MATHS

There were

12 DENARRI (pennies) in a sous
20 SOUS made up one pound of silver
Therefore **240 DENARRI** was equal to one pound

Charlemagne continued the monetary reforms of his father and issued new mintage to create a consistent currency

THE CAROLINGIAN RENAISSANCE

Charlemagne introduced a series of educational reforms across his expanding empire. He insisted that bishops open schools at cathedrals, while he built a palace school at Aachen for his family.



DIVIDING POWER

The king decided to promote his sons to positions of authority. Charlemagne named his two youngest sons, Carloman and Louis, as the kings of Italy and Aquitaine respectively.



A RARE DEFEAT

Charlemagne invaded Northern Spain but failed to beat the armies of the Muslim rulers. Eventually forced to leave, the king's forces were infamously ambushed at the Battle of Roncevaux Pass.



LENGTH OF CONQUESTS

Charlemagne's successful military campaigns against Lombardy and Bavaria only took

1 YEAR EACH
5 YEARS
His sporadic conquest of the Avars took
30 YEARS

The Saxon Wars were the Frankish's longest-ever campaign

SAVING THE DAY

When King Desiderius of the Lombards began invading the papal cities of Pope Adrian I, Charlemagne not only stopped him, but successfully conquered Lombardy as well.



Charlemagne had himself crowned as king of the Lombards after the successful conquest against Desiderius in 774

791-796

780

787

781

778

775

774

CROWNING GLORY

Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne the first Holy Roman emperor in Rome. The pontiff hoped to restore the Western Roman Empire, while the coronation supported Charlemagne's own imperial ambitions.



CHARLEMAGNE'S FAMILY

AT LEAST 4 legitimate wives during his lifetime
18 CHILDREN Out of the
he supposedly fathered, three legitimate sons survived into adulthood
ONLY 1 son remained alive by 811, three years before Charlemagne's death

BYZANTINE BREAKTHROUGH



The emperor in the East, Michael I, finally acknowledged Charlemagne as an emperor 12 years after his coronation. However, Michael refused to recognise him as a Roman emperor.

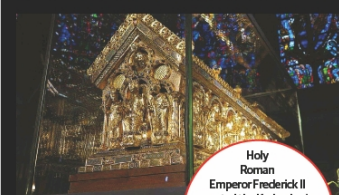
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Charlemagne crowned his only remaining legitimate son, Louis the Pious, as his co-emperor and king of the Franks. Louis had been the king of Aquitaine since the age of three.



DEATH OF AN EMPEROR

After suffering from pleurisy, Charlemagne passed away at Aachen. He died just over 45 years after ascending the throne as king of the Franks and was subsequently buried in the Palatine Chapel.



Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II created the Karlschrein casket in 1215 to reinstate Charlemagne's remains after they were exhumed in the 12th century

IMPERIAL STATS

DOUBLED the size of his empire during his reign
20 MILLION are estimated to have lived in the empire at its height
30 YEARS The empire remained united for almost after Charlemagne's death before it was divided among his grandsons

800

811

812

813

814

843

How to CONQUER THE SAXONS

USE CHARLEMAGNE'S TACTICS TO CRUSH YOUR HEATHEN ENEMIES AND BUILD YOUR MAGNIFICENT EMPIRE SAXONY, 772-804

Charlemagne expanded his empire through a series of successful military campaigns, with his conquest of Saxony one of the most crucial. The ruler believed it was his duty to spread Christianity across Europe and the Saxons continued to cross his borders to conduct raids on his lands, provoking his anger.

Charlemagne defeated a number of rebellions from those who resisted the conquest, led by the steadfast Saxon rebel leader Widukind. At the same time, he issued administrative reforms to bring Saxony into the Frankish Empire. In total, it took him over 30 years to fully consolidate his control over the region.

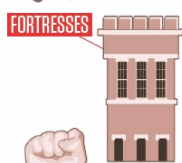
WHAT YOU'LL NEED...



CHRISTIANITY



ARMY



PERSEVERANCE

Frankish cavalry

Fast, highly skilled and armed with throwing spears, Charlemagne's cavalry troops quickly overpowered Saxons on the battlefield.

Rebel warriors

While the invading force were superior in a pitched battle, the Saxons employed insurgency tactics to resist Frankish occupation for years.

Matching arsenal

Though Charlemagne's troops were better trained, both sides carried similar weapons: long swords, round shields and spears.

Continental conflict

Not to be confused with the Anglo-Saxons of England, Charlemagne invaded continental Saxons who lived in north-western Germany.



01 INVADE SAXON TERRITORY

In retaliation for a raiding party crossing your border to sack and burn a church in Deventer, march on Saxony in January 772. Bring as large an army as you can muster, so that you can quickly capture and subjugate the region of Engria. Once this is secured, use this as a base of operations while continue your military campaign up to the Weser River.



02 PREPARE FOR THE LONG HAUL

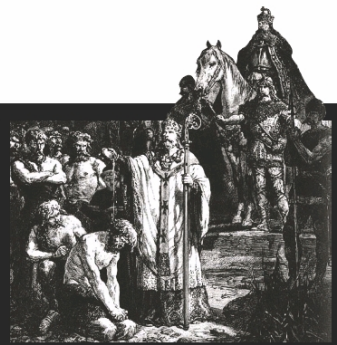
While the Carolingian force is militarily superior, the Saxons won't accept defeat easily – this campaign will take years to win. Take Saxon strongholds as you make your way through the territory as well as build your own fortresses, just as Charlemagne captured Eggesburg, the Saxons' largest refuge castle, in 772 and later established Karlstadt.

How not to... make the Saxon Wars drag out

Charlemagne was 24 when he first attacked the Saxons but he was 56 by the time the Saxon Wars ended, starting a French fashion for fighting l-o-n-g wars.

Part of the problem was that Charlemagne only campaigned intermittently. He would move through Saxony, defeating various tribes and securing their lands as he went but he frequently became distracted by other conflicts, such as with Lombardy.

He left fortresses behind to keep control during his absences but the Saxons rebels took advantage and raided them while he was gone. Charlemagne was then forced to return to squash the uprisings, forcing the Saxons to submit and convert to Christianity all over again, triggering a vicious cycle. If Charlemagne had remained solely focused on conquering Saxony, perhaps he could have conquered it a lot sooner.



03 CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY

Insist that the Saxons become Christians. Charlemagne destroyed the pagans' sacred tree or pillar, the Irminsul, in Engria. He also routinely forced defeated rebel leaders to be baptised. This religious mission helped legitimise his conquest in the eyes of the Church, while introducing a new faith further weakened the Saxon's traditional power structures.



05 BUY A CHIEFTAIN'S ALLEGIANCE

When a Saxon leader agrees to be baptised, grant them land and a title. This will wed them to you financially, while they act as your local enforcer. This worked so well for Charlemagne that the last Saxon uprising, the Stellinga in 841-845, was mainly put down by Saxon nobles.



04 MASSACRE THE REBELS

Every time you think you've successfully conquered the Saxons, they will rise up again. Charlemagne found he had to grow ever more ruthless to suppress the rebels, shifting from taking a few aristocratic hostages in 772 to slaughtering 4,500 rebel prisoners of war in 785. Consider being merciless from the beginning to prove you mean business.



06 PAX CAROLINGIA

With the rebels either dead or deported and the nobility in your pocket, you can finally breathe a sigh of relief. To cement your rule and integrate the Saxons into the empire, overhaul their statute books. The *Lex Saxonum* was a series of laws that recognised the Saxons' customs while removing pagan practises and proclaiming the rights of the Church.

4 FAMOUS... ENEMIES OF CHARLEMAGNE



AQUITANIANS

Charlemagne imprisoned Hunald II in 769 when the latter led a revolt in an attempt to regain the duchy of Aquitaine, which once belonged to his father.



LOMBARDS

Charlemagne was involved in the conflict between the King Desiderius of the Lombards and the pope. In the ensuing war, he conquered Lombardy in 772.



ANDALUSIAN MUSLIMS

Desiring to spread Christianity, Charlemagne campaigned against the Muslims in Spain in 777 but was eventually forced to retreat.



AVARS

To secure the frontier of his empire along the Danube river, Charlemagne fought a bloody war against the Avars in 791 and emerged victorious.

THE Anatomy of

A CAROLINGIAN CAVALRYMAN

WESTERN EUROPE,
8TH-9TH CENTURY

CHAIN MAIL SHIRT

BATTLE DRESS

Mail hauberks were the most common form of body armour. In the in-between stage between the fall of Rome and the emergence of the Middle Ages, contemporary visual sources, such as the *Stuttgart Psalter*, also suggest that cavalymen wore scale armour or even a centurion-style cuirass.

EXPENSIVE SWORD

A CUT ABOVE

While its likely cavalymen would use a lance when charging, many Carolingian literary sources made a, ahem, *point* of mentioning their swords. Cavalymen were the only ones rich enough to afford them. The longsword, which was doubled-edged and tapered, was popular during Charlemagne's reign before the sax, a single-edged iron sword, became de rigueur in later years.

ADDITIONAL WEAPONS

FIGHT OR FLIGHT

Charlemagne issued edicts saying that as well as a sword and spear, his proto-knights should carry a dagger and a bow with a minimum of 12 arrows into battle. This meant the cavalry could fight up close as well as rain down pain from a distance.

IRON HELMET

HEADS UP

Cavalymen wore iron helmets with a wide rim and sometimes a neck guard for extra protection. There are some suggestions that they may also have worn a conical helmet like a Spangenhelm.

NOBLE BIRTH

CLASS WARRIOR

The cavalry was made up of landed gentry. Under Carolingian law, the nobles had to have their own warhorse, armour and weapons and serve in the army. The wealthiest also had to provide additional fighting men. Failure to comply could lead to their property being seized.

CIRCULAR SHIELD

ALL-ROUND PROTECTION

Cavalymen carried large, round, wooden shields that could protect the body from the neck to the thighs – all the more important when they were charging into close combat with the enemy. Some shields were also covered with leather and riveted with metal for extra reinforcement.

FIGHTING FORCE

HIGHLY MOBILE

The cavalry only made up about 10 to 20 per cent of Charlemagne's army but they were his dominant fighting force. Their primary use in battle was to charge through gaps in the enemy line – a tactic that frequently secured victory. However, the highly mobile horseman could also be used for search-and-destroy missions or to scout ahead.

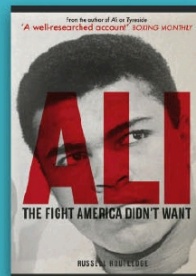
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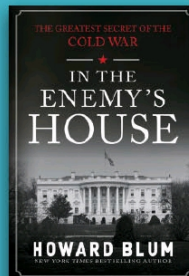
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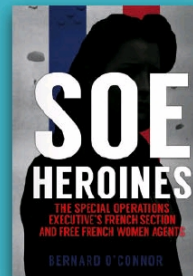
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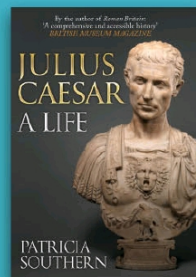
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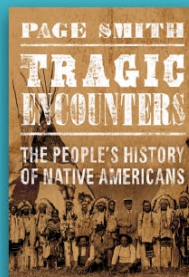
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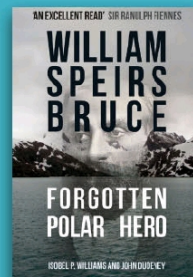
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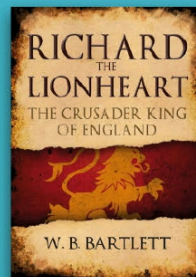
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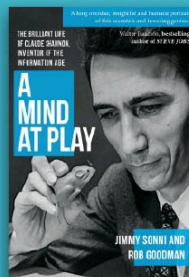
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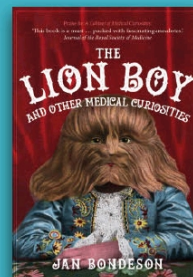
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PALATINE CHAPEL

AACHEN, GERMANY, 792

While Charlemagne ruled from a number of cities and palaces, he spent a significant amount of time in Aachen, a city in western Germany. From the 790s onwards, he set about making it his imperial capital city. Aachen was ideally suited because it was at the heart of his mighty kingdom with important roads connecting it to the Rhineland and northern Gaul. The city was also a former Roman settlement with its own traditional baths, symbolically conflating Charlemagne's rule with that of the ancient emperors.

To establish his seat of power, Charlemagne built a royal complex covering 50 acres that included a palace, a law court and the Palatine Chapel – the latter of which was designed by Frankish architect Odo of Metz. The king's own private chapel, it was a domed octagon with a 16-sided ambulatory, an imperial box containing a marble-slab throne, and two winding staircases that led up to the twin towers.

Considered one of the best examples of Carolingian architecture, it fused ideas from Byzantine basilicas, Roman ruins and Jerusalem. In fact, Charlemagne even bought materials and craftsmen from these distant lands to build his grand church. Its vaulted interior was the highest in northern Europe for centuries.

In 805, Pope Leo III officially consecrated the chapel and Charlemagne was buried underneath it in 814. While the first Holy Roman emperor wasn't crowned there, it was the venue for the coronations of 30 German kings spanning almost 600 years between 936 and 1531.

Although the Palatine Chapel is one of the best-preserved Carolingian buildings that survives today, it has been altered over time. For example, a stained glass chancel was added in the 15th century and the structure now forms a part of the larger Aachen Cathedral.

Art on display

Connecting the Palatine Chapel to the imperial palace was the portico, a type of porch. Inside it, Charlemagne exhibited all the treasures he collected from the provinces he conquered during his rule. Many of these can be still seen on display today thanks to the Aachen Cathedral Treasury.

Fit for a king

The Throne of Charlemagne is located inside the chapel on the upper level and is made from marble from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Mounted on four pillars, the throne has a gap that allowed for pilgrims to pass through underneath as a sign of humility. Although it wasn't used for Charlemagne's coronation, it was used for 31 other kings of Germany until the mid-16th century.

The Wolf's Door

The main entrance, known as the Wolf's Door, is made from bronze and adorned with two lion heads. Legend has it that in exchange for the first soul to enter, the devil agreed to help build the cathedral. He expected the soul of a bishop but the cunning locals tricked him by chasing a wolf into the cathedral. Angered, the devil slammed the bronze doors shut and ripped his finger off in the process.

Twin towers

The monumental western façade of the chapel is known as a westwork, an architectural innovation associated with Carolingian churches. It is two storeys high and comprises two towers on either side, as well as inner rooms and the main entrance to the chapel. Inside the two towers are spiral staircases that provide access to the upper rooms.

Religious decoration

The chapel's original cupola mosaic was supposedly a depiction of Christ enthroned, in purple robes and surrounded by the 24 elders from the Book of Revelation. Foreign artists, brought to Aachen by Charlemagne, most likely made this mosaic, although it doesn't survive today. Instead, the mosaic that now decorates the chapel is a 19th-century re-creation by Antonio Salviati, following the designs of Belgian architect Jean-Baptiste de Bethune.

Under fire

When it was built, the chapel's dome was the largest north of the Alps. In 1656, a fire destroyed the entire roof and when the dome had to be completely rebuilt, it was made taller than before. Just under three centuries later, the cathedral was heavily damaged as a result of artillery fire by Allied forces during World War II. Thankfully the main structure survived and many of the treasured objects had already been moved for protection – however, it took over 30 years to restore the building completely.

Imperial inspiration

There are eight supporting pillars within the chapel, made from porphyry marble. Charlemagne imported the expensive material from Ravenna, Italy, emphasising the influence of the city's Basilica of San Vitale had on the design of the Palatine Chapel, as well as from Rome. Porphyry marble was purple, the expensive colour of royalty, adding further symbolism to its use in the construction of the chapel.

Byzantine influence

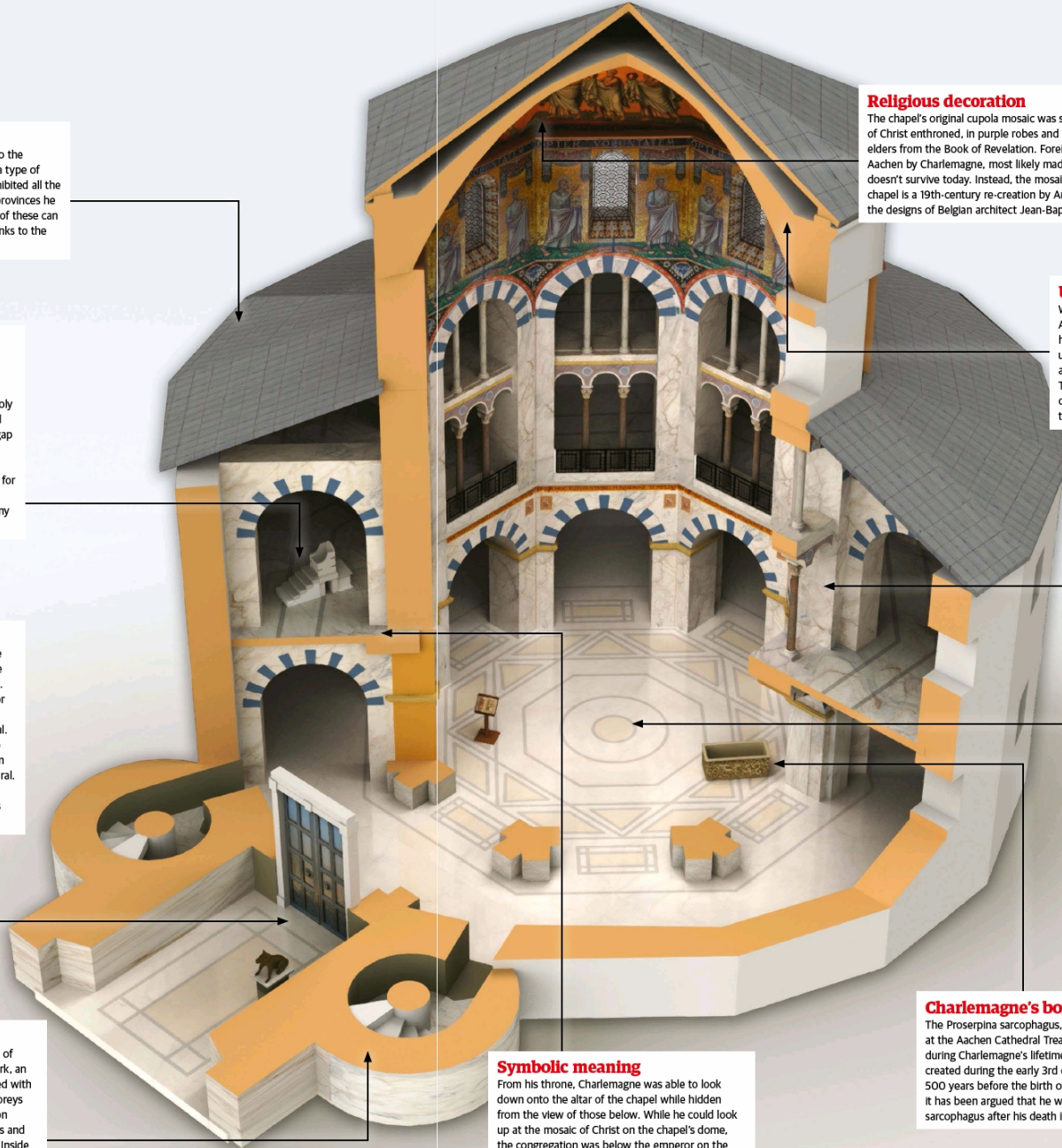
The octagonal shape of the chapel was influenced by the Byzantine style found at the Basilica of San Vitale and remains at the centre of the cathedral. Although many of the additions to the chapel are from a later date, the octagon is the original structure from the time of Charlemagne.

Charlemagne's bones

The Proserpina sarcophagus, which is currently displayed at the Aachen Cathedral Treasury, did not originate during Charlemagne's lifetime. Made from marble, it was created during the early 3rd century CE in Rome, around 500 years before the birth of Charlemagne. However, it has been argued that he was possibly interred in the sarcophagus after his death in 814.

Symbolic meaning

From his throne, Charlemagne was able to look down onto the altar of the chapel while hidden from the view of those below. While he could look up at the mosaic of Christ on the chapel's dome, the congregation was below the emperor on the ground. It was heavily symbolic as Charlemagne was seen to be halfway between God and the people.



Day in the life

ROLAND'S REARGUARD

DISASTER AWAITED CHARLEMAGNE'S MOST FAMOUS GENERAL AS HE RETURNED HOME
RONCEVAUX PASS, PYRENEES, 15 AUGUST 778

The Battle of Roncevaux Pass has gone down in history as one of the few defeats of Charlemagne's reign. Returning from the failed invasion of Spain, the Carolingian army were retreating through the Pyrenees when they suffered a surprise attack by the Basques. It was a disaster for the king, as his rearguard was cut off from the rest of the army and slaughtered as they fought back. The battle has gone down in Medieval legend thanks to the epic poem *The Song of Roland*, which romantically recalls the tale of the military commander, Roland, and his heroic last stand.

LONG ROAD AHEAD

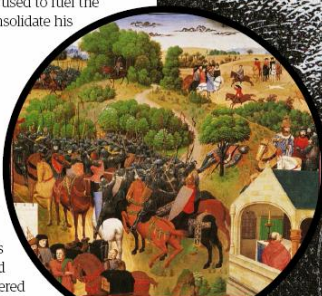
With reports that the Saxons were revolting against Frankish rule in Saxony and the invasion of Spain achieving little, the Carolingian army marched towards the Roncevaux Pass to return home. As they made their way, Charlemagne ordered his troops to destroy the defensive walls at Pamplona to prevent the Basques from using them in a retaliation attack.

TAKE A BREAK

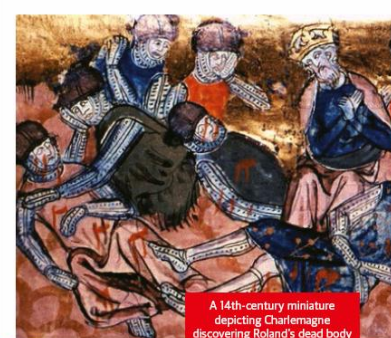
The army stopped for a break after several hours of continuous marching, exhausted from the initial invasion and the journey home. Charlemagne was tactful with his campaigns and generally had around six months' worth of supplies gathered to support his troops – normally used to fuel the fortresses he left behind to consolidate his victories, not to aid a retreat.

HOME IS IN SIGHT

Following even more hours of marching the army could see the mountains of the Pyrenees. It signalled not only the border between Spain and France, but that home was getting even closer for the tired soldiers. Charlemagne had ordered for some garrisons to be left behind to secure the territory so that the soldiers could cross through to France safely.



The Song of Roland remains a seminal work of French literature



A 14th-century miniature depicting Charlemagne discovering Roland's dead body

THE LONG STRETCH

Charlemagne and his men reached the Roncevaux Pass and began to make the long, arduous walk across into France. The rearguard had been placed at the back to protect the rest of the troops and supplies. The pass was narrow and heavily wooded, so the journey was likely uncomfortable for the soldiers as they made their way through the cramped conditions.

UNDER ATTACK!

As the army continued through the mountain pass, they were ambushed by Basque tribes. The Basques had been left infuriated after Charlemagne had damaged Pamplona and a number of other cities belonging to them and had followed the Carolingians to seek revenge. The king and his troops had not anticipated such a bold attack and were consequently unprepared.

DEADLY CHAOS

Having gathered in the dense woods of the mountains, the Basques quite literally had the upper hand. Trapped in the confined pass, the Carolingians scrambled to escape the enemy and save themselves from the ambush. Charlemagne attempted to organise his army in order to get them out as quickly as possible – aware that they were at a great disadvantage.

LONE WOLVES

In the midst of the chaos, the Basques had managed to completely isolate the rearguard from the rest of the army. To give the king and the rest of the men time to escape, the rearguard, led by noble military commanders including Roland, held the Basques off for as long as possible – not an easy feat in the evening's darkness.

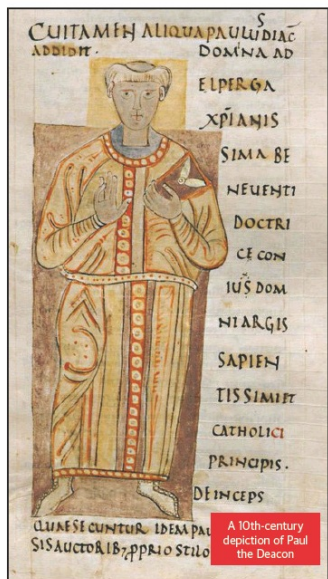
A HEROIC SACRIFICE

Charlemagne and his troops just about managed to get out of harm's way but at a great cost. Every single member of the Carolingian rearguard was brutally massacred and the Basques looted their supplies before escaping under the cover of night. It was a humiliating defeat for the king, who consequently did not attempt another Spanish invasion for several years.

Hall of Fame

HOLY ROMAN RENAISSANCE

From abbots to architects, meet the great minds who were responsible for Charlemagne's cultural revival



A 10th-century depiction of Paul the Deacon

PAUL THE DEACON

ITALIAN C.720S-799

Born in Friuli and educated at the Lombard court, Paul fled to Benevento after Charlemagne invaded Northern Italy in 774. He became a member of the Palace school at Aachen in return for his brother Arichis' freedom in 782 – Arichis had been taken prisoner after leading a revolt against the king in 776. Just like his contemporaries Alcuin and Einhard, Paul wrote a number of influential works, most notably his *History of Lombardy*.

Paul appears to have been a tutor for Adelperga, daughter of Desiderius, king of the Lombards, before Charlemagne conquered Lombardy

PAULINUS II OF AQUILEIA

ITALIAN C.726-C.802

Paulinus joined Charlemagne's court around 776, after the king defeated an uprising in Friuli, Lombardy. Despite the king's conquering of his native home, Paulinus proved to be a loyal and trusted follower of Charlemagne's. In 787, he was appointed as the archbishop of Aquileia, a role he remained in until his death around 15 years later. As archbishop, he promoted the spread of Christianity around the empire as one of the fundamental aspects of the Carolingian Renaissance.

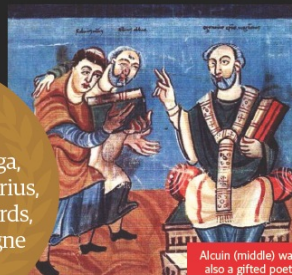


Paulinus was also a respected scholar, writer and poet

ALCUIN OF YORK

ENGLISH C.735-804

Alcuin was a scholar and leading figure of the Carolingian Renaissance during Charlemagne's reign. He was originally a deacon at York Cathedral before accepting an invitation from the king to join his royal court, after the pair met in Italy. Alcuin became the master of the palace school at Aachen where he set up a magnificent library. He was personally responsible for tutoring Charlemagne himself for a number of years and developed a close relationship with the king. Alcuin played a crucial role in the education reforms across the Carolingian Empire before becoming the abbot at Saint Martin's monastery in Tours.



Alcuin (middle) was also a gifted poet

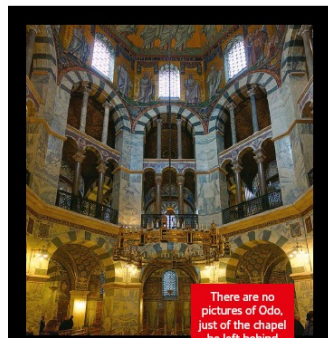


Angilbert was the abbot at Saint Riquier monastery

SAINT ANGILBERT

FRANKISH C.740-814

Born into a noble family, Angilbert was educated at Charlemagne's court, most likely under the eminent scholar Alcuin. He displayed incredible talents as a poet, which led to others at court, and Charlemagne himself, calling him 'Homer'. Some of his verses – including a poem created for the king, 'Ad Carolum regem' – provide an understanding of the royal court that remains useful today. A prominent supporter of Charlemagne's education reforms, he established a school at the monastery of Saint Riquier. He encouraged the Carolingian Renaissance and his flourishing talents were a testament to its success. He was later canonised in the 12th century.



There are no pictures of Odo, just of the chapel he left behind

ODO OF METZ

FRANKISH 742-814

As the architect for the Palatine Chapel at Aachen, Odo of Metz was responsible for the most iconic building of the Carolingian Renaissance. Influenced by the style of the Byzantines, Odo's design ushered in the Romanesque school of architecture. We know little about Odo's life – in fact, he is only known as the chapel's architect thanks to a reference in Einhard's *Vita Karoli Magni* and a lost inscription inside the building itself.



An image of Saint Mark from the Ebbo Gospels

EBBO

GERMAN C.775-851

From his humble beginnings as a serf, Ebbo was a big influence during the Carolingian Renaissance. He was freed and educated at Charlemagne's court when the king noticed his intelligence, after which Ebbo was ordained as a priest. He served as a librarian to Charlemagne's son, Louis, king of Aquitaine, where he rose in favour – Ebbo followed Louis to Aachen upon the latter's succession, becoming the archbishop of Reims. As archbishop he became a patron of the arts and commissioned the famous *Ebbo Gospels*, an illuminated Gospel book. He was also responsible for rebuilding the church at Reims during his time there.

PETER OF PISA

ITALIAN 744-799

Peter was originally a member of intellectual circle at the Lombard court during the reign of King Desiderius. After his arrival, Peter had the distinction of becoming Charlemagne's personal grammar and Latin teacher during his time at the Carolingian court. As a tutor, Peter helped to develop the use of grammar that later became standardised with the creation of Carolingian minuscule. Peter returned to Pisa in 796, where he spent the last three years of his life.



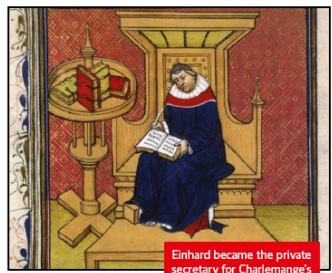
An example of Carolingian minuscule from the 10th century

Peter was one of the first foreign scholars to be invited to join Charlemagne's court, arriving after the king's conquest of Lombardy

EINHARD

FRANKISH C.770-840

Einhard was a Carolingian scholar and historian who produced a number of written works that still exist today. He was recruited for Charlemagne's court around 791, at a time when the king was seeking capable scholars for his education reforms. Einhard became involved in architectural projects, such as the construction of the Palace at Aachen, as well becoming a notable poet. However, he is best remembered for creating the *Vita Karoli Magni*, also known as the *Life of Charlemagne*. It is a largely accurate biography of the king and emperor, with invaluable insight into life at the Carolingian court.



Einhard became the private secretary for Charlemagne's son and successor, Louis



A mosaic of the Ark of the Covenant from Theodulf's private chapel

THEODULF OF ORLÉANS

SPANISH C.750-821

Theodulf was one of Charlemagne's great advisors and leading theologians, having joined his court during the late 780s. He worked closely with Alcuin and his works are considered to be a key contribution to the Carolingian Renaissance. Charlemagne himself patronised a number of Theodulf's treatises, including the *De Spiritu Sancto* and the *Libri Carolini*. After Charlemagne's death, he took part in a failed revolt against the late monarch's son, Louis the Pious. He died imprisoned in the monastery at Angers.

Theodulf had a private chapel built at his villa at Germigny-des-Prés in 806, which still survives today as an example of Carolingian architecture



Rabanus rose in prominence during the reign of Louis the Pious

RABANUS MAURUS

FRANKISH C.780-856

Educated as a boy at the monastery of Fulda, Rabanus was sent to Charlemagne's court before moving to Tours, where he studied under Alcuin of York. He then returned to Fulda, becoming the abbot there, and instigated a renovation of the monastery. Thanks to Rabanus' support, the monastic school and library flourished, establishing Fulda as a major centre for learning in the Carolingian Empire. Rabanus is considered to be one of the most, if not the most, prolific writers from the Carolingian Renaissance – he created a number of different works, including poems, letters, textbooks, scriptural commentaries and penitentials.

HISTORY ANSWERS

Did Charlemagne speak French?

Matthias Brown

Though as a Frankish king he was the ruler of what would have been modern-day France among other places, Charlemagne likely spoke Old High German, a language that gave way to the modern Teutonic tongue. Apart from his native language, the Holy Roman emperor also spoke Latin, which was the official language of the Church and government. It's also claimed Charlemagne understood a bit of Greek, though to what extent is uncertain. He was unable to write it and his ability to read it has also been questioned.

What is Carolingian minuscule?

Harry Tobin

Carolingian minuscule was developed in the late 8th century under the patronage of Charlemagne and was named in his honour. As it was clear, uniform and easy to read, Carolingian minuscule became an instrumental part of Charlemagne's educational reforms. By the early 9th century, he had established it as the standardised script across his empire and it spread throughout Europe, remaining popular until the 12th century. Not only did Carolingian minuscule mark the beginning of lowercase letters and separation between words, but it also revived the use of the neglected element of punctuation – and formed the basis for writing systems today.

Who was Pepin the Hunchback?

Olivia Scott

Pepin was Charlemagne's eldest son and he developed a notable curvature of the spine after birth, earning him his unfortunate sobriquet. In 792, Pepin plotted to overthrow his father with a group of disgruntled nobles but the coup was discovered before it could be put into action. While many of his fellow conspirators were blinded or killed for their crime, Charlemagne commuted Pepin's sentence. Instead, the prince was banished to a monastery for the rest of his days.

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JULIUS CAESAR

DEATH OF THE REPUBLIC

The charismatic strongman promised to make Rome great again but ended up making himself dictator for life

Julius Caesar was born in July 100 BCE, although the month of 'July' was not yet named after him, and was called Quintilis. Carthage had been destroyed in 146 BCE, and the powers of the Greek east had cowed into submission, leaving the Roman Republic dominant all around the Mediterranean. But all was not well.

A few months later, political rioting led to a massacre in the Roman Forum. However, this was not the first outbreak of such violence. In 133, a popular politician by the name of Tiberius

WRITTEN BY
DR ADRIAN GOLDSWORTHY



Dr Adrian Goldsworthy studied at the University of Oxford. He has written many books about Roman history, including *Caesar: The Life of a Colossus* and *How Rome Fell*, as well as a number of historical novels. His most recent book is *Hadrian's Wall*.

Gracchus had been brutally beaten to death along with many of his supporters.

Worse was to follow. When Caesar was 12 years old, a disgruntled general by the name of Sulla turned his legions on Rome and seized control of the city, killing his opponents and anyone who dared to stand in his way. Sulla then departed to fight a war against Mithridates, king of Pontus (now northern Turkey). Barely a year later, Rome found itself being stormed by another army, this time led by enemies who had escaped, regrouped and returned to wreak bloody vengeance.

When Sulla returned victorious from Pontus, the civil war had grown in size and brutality. He retook the city of Rome in 82 BCE, posting the proscriptions in the Forum – death lists that allowed anyone to kill those named on them. If they brought the victim's severed head to the authorities, they could claim a share of the deceased's confiscated property.

A teenaged Caesar was married to Cornelia, the daughter of Cinna, one of Sulla's main opponents, and he was condemned to death when he refused to divorce her. For months he lived as a hunted fugitive, until family connections (and the simple fact that he was too young and obscure to be worth killing) gained him the pardon he had long been hoping for.

Like the United Kingdom today, the Roman Republic had no formal constitution and relied instead on a mix of law, tradition and habit to keep the wheels of public life turning. Caesar once cynically said that the "Republic is nothing", yet tradition guided most of his actions, and the principle that no one individual or group should ever possess permanent, supreme power was fundamental. The senior executive officers of the state were the two consuls, who were elected for just 12 months and ineligible for standing for the post again until a decade had passed. In an emergency, such as when Hannibal Barca was marauding around Italy during the Second Punic War in 218–204 BCE, a dictator was appointed. They led the state without a colleague for up to six months.

Caesar's name is the origin of the titles 'tsar' and 'kaiser' and 28 other imperial titles worldwide

"HE WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH WHEN HE REFUSED TO DIVORCE HER"

Julius Caesar

Sulla revived the title as a legal veil for power seized by military force. He carried out a series of reforms, intended to restore long-term stability by confirming the old traditions of public life and restoring the prestige and influence of the Senate. Having done his best to make the machinery of the state function again and packed the Senate with his supporters, Sulla resigned his powers and retired to private life. Caesar mocked him as a "political illiterate" for doing so.

While Sulla retired to a life of peace, Rome had no such luck. Some of the dictator's reforms were overturned within a decade and no one could eradicate the memory of civil war – of severed heads stuck on spikes on the Speakers' Platform in the Forum and corpses floating down the Tiber. Caesar and his contemporaries had seen all of these things, and there was no reason to believe that they could not happen again.

Less than a year after Sulla had retired, one of the consuls staged an unsuccessful coup and was executed. Men like Caesar, Cicero and Pompey the Great knew that public life might turn violent at any moment and that their rivals could easily resort to force. So, Caesar did not overthrow a healthy and stable Republic but one that was struggling to cope with the pressures of holding together an expanding empire.

Caesar was said to look upon a statue of Alexander the Great and lament how little he himself achieved in life

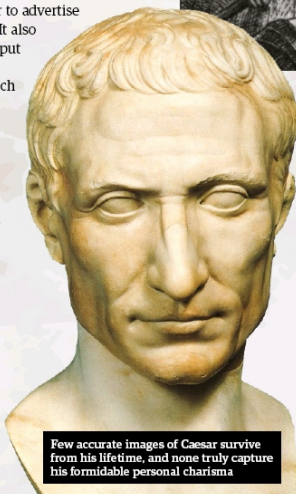
With the benefit of hindsight, people claimed that Sulla and others may have predicted Caesar's dictatorship, but there is no evidence that he had any wider ambition than to excel, just like any other aristocrat. There were no political parties

in Rome as we would understand them today – office could not be shared by multiple people. Candidates rarely voiced any policies and instead boasted of their personal ability and achievements.

Voters tended to go with the established 'brand names' of a small number of aristocratic families, who supplied the majority of Rome's consuls.

The logic was that a man whose father, uncle or brother had served the state well would prove equally capable.

Success bred success, for high office brought wealth and made it easier to advertise a family's achievements. It also gave them the chance to put plenty of people in their debt for past favours, which could be called in at any time. Although not as pronounced, the draw of names like Kennedy – and now potentially Clinton – in American politics is an echo of this.



Few accurate images of Caesar survive from his lifetime, and none truly capture his formidable personal charisma

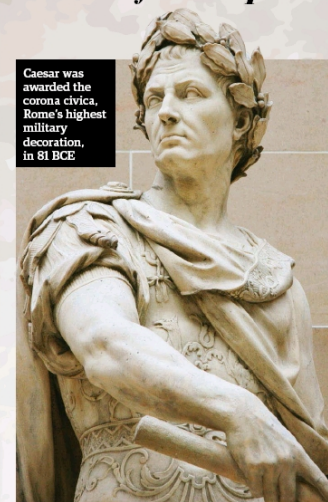


"NO ONE COULD ERADICATE THE MEMORY OF CIVIL WAR – OF SEVERED HEADS STUCK ON SPIKES"



Death of the Republic

Caesar was awarded the corona civica, Rome's highest military decoration, in 81 BCE



CAESAR'S PATH TO THE TOP

Assuming absolute power over Rome involves a rigid career plan

Governor 58 BCE

A governor, or proconsul, was a regional position that had many of the same duties as a consul. Lucrative and powerful, it was the traditional posting following a consulship, and a proconsul could not face prosecution until his term had finished. As governor of Gaul, Caesar added modern-day France and Belgium to Rome's expanding territory and even went on expeditions to Britain.

Consul 59 BCE

The consulship was a presidential post shared by two men that had been established after the Romans abolished the monarchy. It came with a lot of power too as the consul had control of the Republic's finances, the military and the justice system. Although a consul was supposed to listen to the Senate's advice, they could not be tried until their term of office was over.

Praetor 62 BCE

The praetor position combined the duties of an aedile and a quaestor. They were senior magistrates appointed to oversee civil matters, while others had specific courts to head up. In the absence of a consul, the praetor took power. Just one step before consulship, at this point Caesar's opponents were beginning to grow anxious as he showed no signs of slowing down.

Aedile 65 BCE

An aedile organised games and looked after Rome's public buildings and markets. Caesar used this position to win public favour by staging immense gladiatorial games with over 640 gladiators. The Senate was wary of the furor of the event and set a limit on how many gladiators one man could keep, but the message was clear: Caesar knew what the common people were after.

Quaestor 69 BCE

In 69 BCE, Caesar was elected quaestor for Baetica (now Andalusia). The position was similar to that of a magistrate, combined with an accountant as he oversaw the finances of the region and conducted investigations where necessary. This role may have inspired his vision of a smoother-running empire and his later innovations to Roman infrastructure.

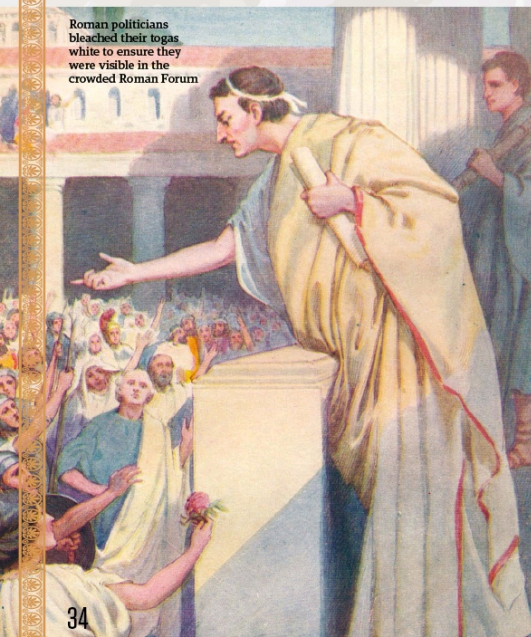
Dictator for life 44 BCE

'Dictator' was the title given to a magistrate who was temporarily entrusted with the full authority of the state to deal with a military emergency. Caesar had held this position before but in February 44 BCE, he became a dictator perpetuo, or dictator for life. This removed the time limit on his dictatorship – not that it mattered in the end.

Divus Iulius 42 BCE

Caesar was the first Roman to be officially declared a god. He was posthumously granted the title of 'Divus Iulius', or 'Divine Julius', by decree of the Roman Senate in 42 BCE. Mark Antony became the priest of this imperial cult, while Caesar's nephew Octavian – the future Emperor Augustus – anointed himself 'Divi Filius' ('son of a god').

Roman politicians bleached their togas white to ensure they were visible in the crowded Roman Forum



MARY BEARD ON CAESAR

The *Civilisations* star considers the Roman ruler's political legacy

Which military campaign do you think was Caesar's most important?

Without a doubt, that has to be the conquest of Gaul – though it was also his bloodiest campaign. Even some Romans, who were much less concerned about military atrocities than we are today, thought it was genocidal and they even threatened to put him on trial for war crimes. But ghostly as it was, it really did change the face of Europe, pushing Roman rule right up to the English Channel and making northern France – what the Romans called 'hairy Gaul' – part of the same world as Spain and Italy, and influencing its history from language to systems of communication ever since.

Was Caesar's ruling style similar to the way that he managed his armies?

He always seemed to have the common touch and he had a good sense of how to win over the ordinary soldier or person. It may have been a very contrived and cynical approach. We simply do not know. But there is no doubt that much of the legislation he introduced was of real benefit to the poor such as a range of new towns to house the urban poor and he could be spectacularly generous. He was certainly immensely popular with his troops and with the ordinary Romans, who were devastated by his assassination in 44 BCE.

How did Caesar raise the money to propel himself up the political ladder?

He started out from a landed, wealthy family, though they weren't among the super-rich at the time. Getting to the top in Rome was a very expensive business and so Caesar

supplemented his family assets by borrowing, as there was a big credit economy in the ancient world, and increasingly by conquest. Individual Romans benefitted financially from their victories – that is, from the loot in every form, from works of art to bullion and slaves that came with them. There was a real sense in which the empire was a cash cow.

"HE WAS CERTAINLY IMMENSELY POPULAR WITH HIS TROOPS AND THE ORDINARY ROMANS"

How did he overpower the other two First Triumvirate members, Crassus and Pompey?

They partly overpowered themselves. Crassus died in a disastrous military expedition in 53 BCE where he was defeated by the Parthians at the Battle of Carrhae on what is now the border of Turkey and Syria. The gruesome story was that his head was cut off and used as a prop in a showing of Euripides' *Bacchae* at the Parthian court. It stood in for the severed head of the character Pentheus.

Caesar's rivalry with Pompey is a little more complicated. In many ways, at least to start with, Pompey was the popular, charismatic leader with an eye

on autocratic rule. He was nicknamed 'the Great' after Alexander the Great but he was outmanoeuvred and eventually sidelined by Caesar, which pushed him into the arms of the traditional conservatives.

Why was Caesar so beloved by the people but hated by other politicians?

The simple way of explaining that is basic class conflict. Caesar was backing the interests of the ordinary Romans against the traditional Roman metropolitan elite. Their vested interests lay in preserving the so-called democracy,



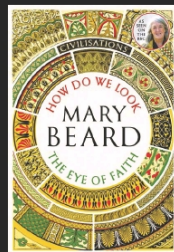
which they dominated with their wealth and influence. Roman politics were built on a principle of power-sharing among the elite – not the poor – and on a detestation of one man rule, which was considered far too reminiscent of the hated early kings of Rome. From their point of view, Caesar was becoming a king... and from their point of view, they were right.

Is there anyone in the modern era who you think best embodies Caesar and his values?

No, but you can see echoes of Caesar and his tactics in many modern politicians. That goes from Caesar's mastery of the sound bite (no one has ever done better than 'veni, vidi, vici') to his mastery of the comb-over (President Trump probably doesn't know but his particular form of hair styling goes right back to Caesar, who was embarrassed that he was thinning on top).

And, of course, the Caesar's assassination has provided the template for political murders ever since. President Lincoln's killers used the code phrase 'The Ides of March' for the date of their own planned assassination.

Mary Beard is professor of Classics at Cambridge University. She is currently presenting *Civilisations* on BBC2 and has written a tie-in book, *Civilisations: How Do We Look & The Eye of Faith*.



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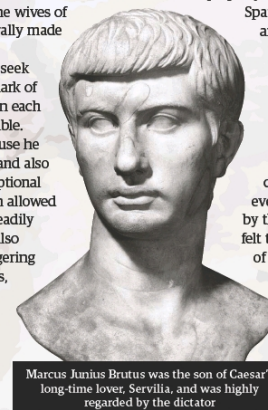
Caesar came from outside this inner circle. Although his family claimed an ancient lineage, including descent from the goddess Venus, it had been centuries since they had been at the forefront of Roman politics. Caesar was forced to make a name for himself, because few voters would automatically choose someone with such an unfamiliar name. In his early 20s he underwent a short period of service with the Roman Army and won the corona civica, Rome's highest military decoration traditionally given for saving the life of a fellow citizen.

At the same time, however, rumours claimed that he had been seduced by the elderly king of Bithynia. Discrete homosexual activity in itself was no big deal among Rome's elite, but playing the shameful, passive role – especially with some debauched Greek monarch – was demeaning. This juicy piece of gossip dogged Caesar throughout his life. That said, they say there's no such thing as bad publicity and notoriety at least meant that his name was becoming known. He was starting to stand out from all the other young men seeking a career in public life.

Back in Rome, Caesar appeared as a legal advocate in a number of prominent trials, all held on raised platforms in the Forum where they were open to passers-by and potential voters. Returning to the eastern Mediterranean to perfect his oratory, he was abducted by pirates and ransomed, only to return with a hastily raised fleet. He found his former captors and crucified them, just as he had promised them he would.

As a mark of his leniency, their throats were cut so that they did not suffer lingering deaths. The story spread, no doubt modestly told by Caesar himself – the only significant witness. Another source of conversation was Caesar's succession of affairs with the wives of other senators, which naturally made him many enemies.

At 30, a man was able to seek public office and it was a mark of pride for an aristocrat to win each post as soon as he was eligible. Caesar did this, partly because he was good at being noticed and also because he possessed exceptional charm and charisma, which allowed him to seduce a crowd as readily as another man's wife. He also borrowed money on a staggering scale and spent it as favours, on public shows and as straightforward bribes to win votes. All the other candidates were doing the same, but Caesar proved better at it, spending the money shrewdly.



Marcus Junius Brutus was the son of Caesar's long-time lover, Servilia, and was highly regarded by the dictator

Though their romance was legendary, Caesar and Cleopatra could not have married as she was not a Roman citizen

Soon his debts were so enormous that he had to keep on winning magistracies – only if he became consul and was given command in a profitable war was there any chance that he would actually be able to repay any his creditors. One single failure would have meant political extinction, something that happened to many. As everyone struggled to out-spend competitors, inevitably there was a constant inflation in the scale of bribes required to win an election. When Caesar sought the highly politicised post as Rome's senior priest, or pontifex maximus, he left his house allegedly telling his mother that he would "return as a victor or not at all".

Thankfully for his mother, Caesar finally won the coveted consulship in 59 BCE. He was primarily aided by a covert agreement with Crassus and Pompey, two of the Republic's wealthiest men. The former was a financier and property developer who had defeated

Spartacus' army of escaped slaves and who boasted that no one could be considered rich unless he could afford to raise his own legion. Pompey, meanwhile, had inherited such vast estates that he had actually raised three legions as a private army so that he could support Sulla during the civil war. His career had broken every rule, including those reinforced by the dictator. Nonetheless, Caesar felt that it was better to make use of the 'young butcher', as he was nicknamed, and his soldiers rather than penalise him.

"ALL THE OTHER CANDIDATES WERE DOING THE SAME BUT CAESAR PROVED BETTER AT IT"



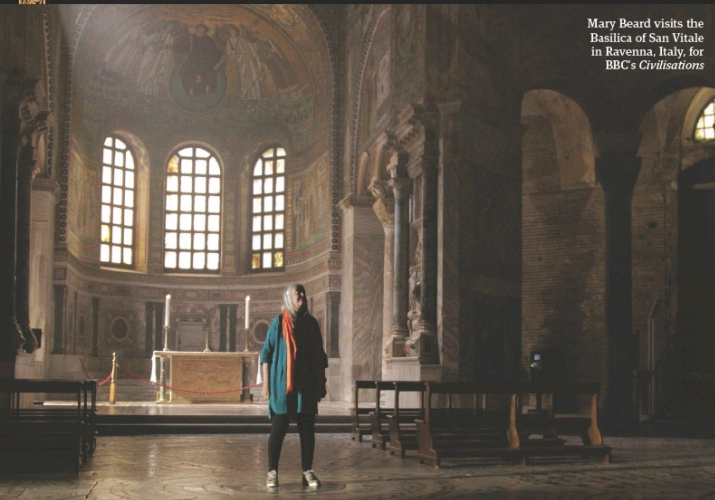
Gnaeus Pompeius – known as Pompey the Great – was a renowned general

Pompey had finally defeated King Mithridates of Pontus and on his return to Rome he had graciously demobilised his army, expecting to be welcomed back as the senior statesman in the Senate and to take an honoured and important role in public life. Instead, inexperienced in day-to-day politics, he was marginalised by most of the senators who had no wish to be in the shadow of someone else.

The principle of preventing anyone from gaining too much long-term power had by now become an obsession for Rome's elite. Too many senators saw political service as a chance to financially squeeze the provincial population so that they could pay off their debts and make themselves even richer.



A testament to Caesar's enduring legacy, this marble relief of Caesar's rise was made in the 18th Century



Mary Beard visits the Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy, for BBC's *Civilisations*

BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH

The final nail in the coffin for the Republic was Caesar's assassination by plotting senators, many of them some of his oldest friends

Marcus Junius Brutus 85-42 BCE

Alarmed by Caesar's growing power after being appointed dictator, Brutus was persuaded to join the conspirators. Upon realising that Brutus was one of the attackers, Caesar is said to have covered his face to preserve his dignity.

Gaius Cassius Longinus 85-42 BCE

Said to be jealous of the favour Caesar showed to Brutus, Cassius is thought to have been the mastermind behind the assassination plot. When the time came, Cassius egged on his fellow conspirators and stabbed Caesar in the chest.

Decimus Brutus 85-43 BCE

A distant cousin of Julius Caesar, Brutus was a general and politician whose job on the final day was to convince a sick Caesar to attend the Senate. He ensured Caesar would show up, even if it was just to postpone the meeting.

Servilius Casca 84-42 BCE

Casca joined the conspirators alongside his brother, Gaius, who was a close friend of Caesar's. In fact, it was Casca who struck the first blow during the assassination, attacking Caesar from behind his chair while he was distracted.

Gaius Trebonius 92-43 BCE

Once a trusted associate of Caesar, Gaius Trebonius intercepted Mark Antony outside the senate building as he raced to warn Caesar of the plot, and engaged him in conversation. This allowed the attackers to finish the job.

Tillius Cimber 85-42 BCE

Upon his arrival at the Senate, Caesar was presented with a petition by Cimber to pardon his exiled brother. As the other senators gathered round, Cimber grabbed Caesar's clothing to distract him.

When it happened

In 44 BCE, Caesar planned a major expedition against Parthia to avenge Crassus and would be away for several years. Three days before he was due to leave, the assassins struck. It was 15 March – or the Ides, one of the three named days in each Roman month.

Where it happened

Caesar was killed at a meeting of the Senate. The Senate House had been burned down in political rioting eight years earlier and Caesar's grand replacement was not yet finished. Purely by chance, the Senate convened in one of the temples attached to Pompey's theatre.

During his murder, Caesar was stabbed 23 times. However, only the second stab wound is thought to have proved fatal

A pugio was a standard-issue military dagger that was used to kill Caesar

Julius Caesar

The established families wanted to make sure that there were enough opportunities available for them and their cronies, and resented a mere few men being granted major commands, even if this was the best way to deal with a problem.

Inertia took hold at the heart of the state and meant that most senators felt it was better to let a problem endure than have one of their rivals gain the credit for solving it. Unemployment among citizens stood at a staggering level, leaving hundreds of thousands dependent on the grain dole issued in Rome.

Backed up by influence, money and supporters, Caesar forced through a bill redistributing large swathes of publicly owned land as farms to war veterans during his consulship. Opposition was bitter, but it was less about the principle and more about the fear that this would make Caesar too popular with the people. Having secured what his allies wanted, Caesar gained an extraordinary provincial command position, which was eventually extended to ten years. This led to his conquest of Gaul and expeditions into Germany and to Britain, all of which are described in his *Commentaries on the Gallic War*.

It was here that he carefully demonstrated that everything he did was

all for the good of Rome, and he celebrated the valour and victories of 'nostri' – 'our lads'. Perhaps 1 million people died and as many more were sold as slaves, but the Romans didn't view imperialism as a bad thing. Caesar was awarded more days of public thanksgiving than any general before him. Plunder allowed him to pay off his colossal debts, to buy new political friends and build huge monuments in Rome that provided jobs for impoverished citizens.

Caesar's opponents had failed to block him during his consulship but they had muddled the waters over the legality of his actions. During his time in Gaul, Crassus had come to dream of fresh military glory and launched an unprovoked invasion of Parthia. He was killed for his pains. Pompey and Caesar drifted apart, not least when Julia, Caesar's daughter and Pompey's wife, died in childbirth. Opponents realised the alliance was weak and did everything to prize the two men apart, sensing that with Pompey's support they could end Caesar's illustrious career.

Later, the poet Lucan claimed that Pompey could not stand an equal and Caesar could not stand a superior. He might have added that a great many leading senators were willing to run the risk of another costly civil war simply to cut

Contrary to popular belief, Caesar was not born through a caesarean, though the practise did exist in Roman times

FRIENDS AND FOES

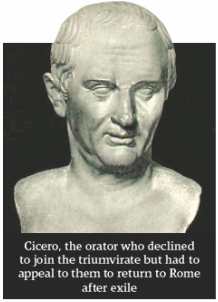
In politics, not everyone tends to get along

As you would expect, the First Triumvirate had its supporters and its enemies. Firmly on their side, though, was Cicero, a politician and orator who was strongly opposed to the optimates in the Senate. In fact, he was on such good terms with the triumvirate that he appealed to Pompey and Caesar to help him return to Rome in 57 BCE after his exile. It's even thought that he was asked to join the triumvirate at the very beginning. He refused but that didn't stop him from lending his legal services. His friend Lucius Luccelus also ran for the consulship with Caesar in 60 BCE and financed both of them, even though he was ultimately unsuccessful.

But the trio perhaps had more enemies than friends. Bibulus, Caesar's co-consul, was part of the optimates faction, the conservatives who were eager to block the radical reforms of the populares. Another of their rivals was Cato the Younger, who later attacked the triumvirate for their extended governorships.

But there was one man whose opposition to the three men led to the triumvirate's birth in the first place.

Lucius Licinius Lucullus, a member of the optimates, was forcibly removed from his post in the east when his invasion of Armenia nearly brought the dreaded Parthians into the conflict. Pompey was brought in to take his place and the glory. And when consul Quintus Caecilius Metellus Celer voted against Pompey's veteran settlements, Pompey had no reason not to join forces with Caesar and Crassus.



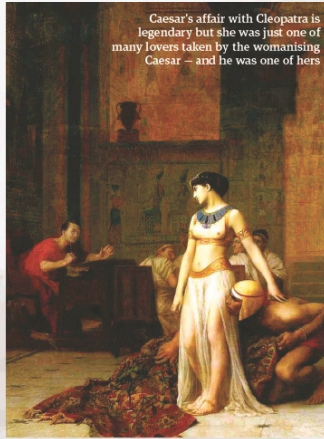
Cicero, the orator who declined to join the triumvirate but had to appeal to them to return to Rome after exile



Caesar's forces defeated Pompey's at the Battle of Pharsalus in 48 BCE



A coin minted by Brutus to pay his soldiers in the civil war. It shows a freedman's cap, a symbol later adopted by the French Revolutionaries



Caesar's affair with Cleopatra is legendary but she was just one of many lovers taken by the womanising Caesar – and he was one of hers

“CAESAR WAS AWARDED MORE DAYS OF THANKSGIVING THAN ANY GENERAL”

Caesar down to size. However, Caesar was equally willing to plunge the world into chaos just to preserve his status and glory. Upon surveying dead senators after the Battle of Pharsalus in 48 BCE, all he had to say was, “They wanted this.”

Caesar had the better army and was still at the peak of his military performance, so he triumphed in this new civil war. Rome had a dictator once again, but Caesar surprised everyone by his ‘clemency’, sparing opponents who surrendered, notably Brutus and Cassius, both of whom even received honours and office from his new regime.

Although much of his time was spent on campaign and in the famous affair with Cleopatra, his visits to Rome saw intensive bursts of wide-ranging reform, making the state begin to function once again. Most of these reforms were sensible, although in many cases there was not enough time for them to start to work. This was scarcely a brutal tyranny but for too many senators it was simply not how the state should work. One man, however capable and well intentioned, should never hold so much power and receive honours on a scale dwarfing those of anyone else.

Seeing they had no other option than to assassinate Caesar, Brutus, Cassius and several dozen other senators stabbed him to death on the 15 March 44 BCE, a day that was known as

the Ides of March in the Roman calendar. They were surprised when the public didn't share their enthusiasm for the liberty they proclaimed upon Caesar's death – which ultimately was freedom for the elite to share out the high offices and profit among themselves.

Civil war soon resumed and was eventually won by Caesar's great nephew and heir, who became Caesar Augustus, Rome's first emperor. After the chaos and bloodshed, everyone was simply glad to have stability, whatever the political cost. The Republic was dead.

Death of the Republic



CROSSING THE RUBICON

A small stream restarted a civil war

It's amazing how one narrow river could cause such a huge problem for Rome. The Rubicon separated Cisalpine Gaul from Italy and anyone crossing it with soldiers was breaking the Lex Cornelia Majestatis, a law forbidding generals to enter the Italian peninsula with an army. Caesar knew this, but that wasn't going to stop him.

There was already a considerable amount of tension between Caesar and Rome's other officials. He was popular with the people and the Senate had demanded that he hand ten of his legions over to a new governor. In retaliation, he chose to rebel.

On 10 or 11 January 49 BCE, he crossed the Apennines and then came an act of war – but not without some deliberation. As Caesar and his accompanying legion neared the Rubicon, he slowed until he ordered a halt. He took his time considering the outcome of what he was intending to go, constantly switching between being ready for war and wondering if it was really the right course of action.

As he crossed the river, now called Il Rubicone, in northern Italy, he threw caution to the wind and supposedly announced, “Alea iacta est”, or “the die is cast”, a line from *Arrhéphoros* by Greek dramatist Menander. Once the deed was done, there was no going back. He headed south at full speed.



© Getty Images, Alamy, Joe Cornish

Cato the Younger hated the idea of Caesar being in power so much that he committed suicide in 46 BCE

WIN BRITANNIA ON BLU-RAY

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When Julius Caesar landed on Britain's shores in 55 BCE, he took one look at the crazy-eyed Celts and turned around and went home. At least that's what hit new series *Britannia* would have you believe. Set 90 years after Caesar, the show follows another invasion of Blighty, led by Aulus Plautius (David Morrissey), a rock-star Roman general who acts like he owns the place.

However, the epic drama also follows chariot-riding warrior queen Antidia (Zoë Wanamaker), who's caught up in tribal conflict. On the periphery, Mackenzie Crook stars as a cadaverous Druid shaman channeling the mysterious forces of the Underworld. Can the Celts unite to resist the might of the Roman army once more?



For more information, visit www.sonypictures.co.uk

While the story bears as much resemblance to the actual Roman invasion of Britain as *Game of Thrones* does to the War of the Roses, the first series is a thrilling romp nonetheless. Creator Jez Butterworth throws in psychedelic drugs, mysticism, folk horror (the Romans were the first to claim the Brits built 'wicker men', after all) and a surprising amount of humour to produce a strange brew that's like nothing else.

Thanks to Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, we have five boxsets of *Britannia* series one on Blu-ray to give away. One lucky overall winner will win a boxset and one year's family membership to English Heritage, which will give you access to over 400 historic monuments across ancient Albion.



For your chance to win, answer the following question at historyanswers.co.uk

In what year did Caesar invade Britain?

- A. 5 BCE
- B. 55 BCE
- C. 505 BCE



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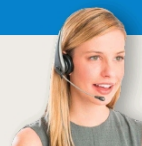
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IT'S BEDLAM IN HERE

From chaining patients to walls to dunking them in cold water, the treatment of patients in lunatic asylums has left a lot to be desired

Written by Nell Darby

Artist William Hogarth famously depicted Bedlam in the early 18th century



It's Bedlam in Here

A coloured engraving of Bethlam at Moorfields circa 1771



Bedlam conjures up images of madmen, chaos and noise. More than any other word in the English language, it darkly hints at the 'madness' that can afflict each and every one of us. This maligned word comes from the Bethlehem, or Bethlem, Royal Hospital, one of the earliest British asylums for housing the mentally ill. In fact, it was the first hospital in England specifically designed to care for these individuals. Founded back in the 13th century, it saw notable inmates such as Mary Frith, a cross-dressing thief who was sent there in the 1640s.

But it was in the 17th and 18th centuries that Bedlam really became infamous. Inmates had once been chained up or locked in their cells if they were deemed to be dangerous or disturbing to others – otherwise, they had relative freedom. As the 17th century progressed, there were an increasing number of complaints of corrupt staff and poor diets, with several patients suffering from starvation. There were only two meals a day, the meagre food being mainly bread and meat with few vegetables. At the time, it was believed that madness could be exacerbated by rich foods.

Cold baths were a common treatment from the 1680s, and patients were subject to bloodletting or had blisters raised on their skin in the belief that it could cure hysteria. Many of the therapies resulted

in pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, with the blisters leading to burns and sores.

FOR ALL TO SEE

Until 1770, visitors could make a trip to Bethlem in much the same way as we might go to a museum or play today. Outings to see the patients became part of the holiday season, with many guests travelling to London at Christmas or Easter. Although the visits were designed to raise money for the hospital and provoke compassion among the wider community, the inmates were ultimately there for others' entertainment. If you were able to pay the fee, you could stand and watch them 'perform' in their cells. Asylums became like human zoos, creating entertainment for the wealthy and the fashionable.

However, some visits inspired literature. One poem from the 1790s, entitled 'On Visiting Bedlam', referred to a 'poor fond maid, oppressed by woe and care'. She was once the envy of her town and a man fell in love with her, but her parents refused to let them marry. The suitor went off to sea and never came back while the woman was driven to madness by grief. The poem was actually quite modern in its approach, seeing madness as the consequence of social situations and pressures, recognising the importance of understanding the individual's background in order to help them.

"ASYLUMS BECAME LIKE HUMAN ZOOS, CREATING ENTERTAINMENT"

Victorian Asylums

Another poem, from ten years earlier, again focused on a woman in Bethlem. It referred to a "little cell" that was home to "poor Chloe", incarcerated when she became melancholic as a result of "broken vows and faithless men". By the time this poem was written, the open, fee-paying visits to the mentally afflicted at Bethlem had ended, replaced by a system whereby visitors had to obtain a "ticket" granted by a governor.

Patients such as Hannah Snell, a woman who had posed as a male soldier and who died in Bethlem in 1792, benefited from not being 'on show' – however, the inmates suffered as their poor treatment was no longer witnessed by the public. Instead, it was hidden away behind closed doors.

"THERE WAS
INCREASING
DISQUIET
OVER THE
CONDITIONS"

ACTING OUT

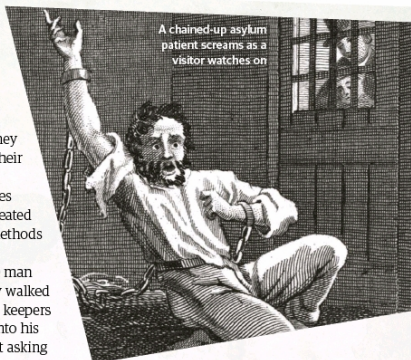
Throughout this era, there had been a system of private 'madhouses' in Britain designed to hide the afflicted away as they brought embarrassment and shame to their families. Public asylums later developed over the 19th century. In both madhouses and public asylums, patients could be treated violently and were subjected to harsh methods of restraint and punishment.

In Bethlem Hospital, for example, one man got up from his bed one day and quietly walked a few steps away from his cell door. The keepers immediately grabbed him, threw him onto his bed and placed his legs in locks, without asking him what he had been doing. It was noted that "chains are universally substituted for the strait-waistcoat", and that those who suffered from incontinence were left to lie in their beds, naked, as it was felt they would be "less troublesome in that state than when up and dressed".

Bethlem Hospital had originally been situated near where Liverpool Street Station now stands, and it moved to purpose-built premises at Moorfields towards the end of the 17th century. In the early 19th century, with its buildings again decaying and proving dangerous, it moved to St George's Fields in Southwark, opening in 1815. By this time, there was increasing disquiet over the conditions in which the mentally ill were housed.

One particular scandal centred on the York Lunatic Asylum, which had opened in the 1770s. After rumours surrounding the treatment

Instruments and restraint apparatus that were used in Hanwell Asylum



A chained-up asylum patient screams as a visitor watches on



A straitjacket used between 1925 and 1935

of patients reached local magistrate Godfrey Higgins, he began to investigate. Several cases involving patients being treated violently by staff came to light and it emerged that the asylum was faced with poor finances even though the number of admissions continued to grow. Funds had been misappropriated and deaths concealed; rich patients were treated better than the poor; and secret cells housed female patients who had been completely neglected by staff.

After all the members of staff were dismissed in 1814, a parliamentary enquiry was held. It found that "some new provision of law is indispensably necessary for ensuring better care being taken of insane persons... a very large proportion of whom are entirely neglected by their relations and friends." It recognised that the lumping

together of the 'insane' as one homogenous group was not helpful – for example, patients who were "outrageous" in their behaviour were kept with those who were "quiet and inoffensive", even when their care needs were actually very different. The enquiry looked at the wider issue of housing and treating 'lunatics'. It had criticised Bethlem when it was still at Moorfields, and had found that inmates were treated as though they were animals. One man, James Norris, was singled out for having been chained to a wall for over 12 years.

In 1774, the Madness Act was passed. While it operated for half a century, it failed to mention, for example, what should be done with pauper lunatics – the poor and destitute members of society who could not afford a private madhouse – and other unsatisfactory provisions. Finally, in 1828, a Madhouse Act was passed, which recognised that the Act of 1774 was unfit for purpose. It set out how asylums ought to be licensed and monitored.

TERRIFYING TREATMENTS

STRAITJACKET HELL

The straitjacket was aimed at preventing individuals from causing harm to themselves and others. It had very long sleeves which could be crossed over the chest and tied to the back of the jacket.

WHIRLING CHAIR

The whirling chair, or spinning chair, was occasionally used in the early 19th century to calm down those suffering from mania. However, it could result in vertigo and sickness.

CHAINED UP

Chains were used to shackle lunatics to the walls at home and in institutions. They might also be kept naked and alone in cold conditions while chained for they were seen as little better than animals.

HYDROTHERAPY

Water was used in various ways to treat the insane by the early 20th century. 'Continuous' baths involved the individual being put in a canvas hammock in a tub, and immersed up to the chin.

IN RESTRAINTS

In the early 19th century, restraints were used on the insane, thus limiting their movements. It was believed that the mentally ill should be physically restrained and coerced into behaving.

BLEEDING LEECHES

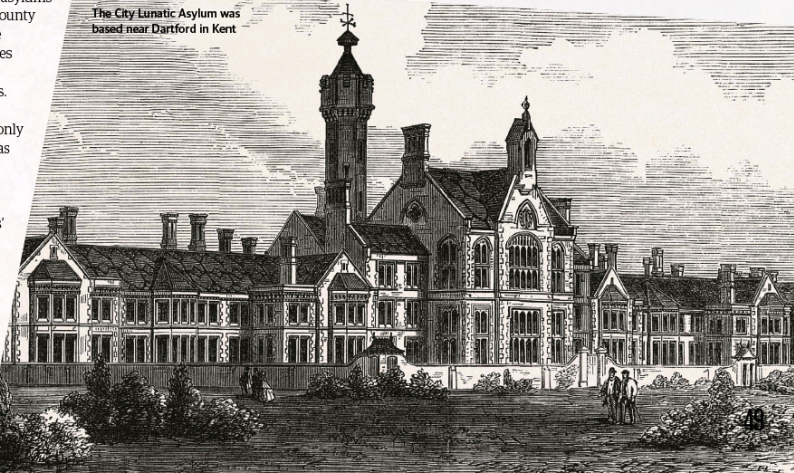
Leeches were used for treating both physical and mental illnesses – in fact, they were seen as a panacea for most ailments. They were placed on the body to draw blood.

A system of county and borough lunatic asylums had been implemented by this time. The County Asylum Act of 1808 recognised that private asylums were more profit-seeking businesses than charitable institutions trying to help patients, regardless of their economic status. They therefore encouraged the building of public asylums. As this wasn't mandatory, only 15 were built in the following decades. It was only in 1845 that it became compulsory.

GETTING BETTER

In many ways, the umbrella term 'madness' continued to be applied to individuals suffering from various ailments and conditions. It could also be used in a patriarchal Victorian society to control women, by defining those displaying frustration or sexual feelings as suffering from 'hysterics' and locking them away from their genteel families.

The City Lunatic Asylum was based near Dartford in Kent



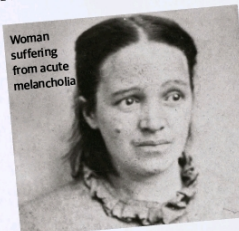
Victorian Asylums

MAD, BAD OR IDIOTIC?

There were many different 'types' of madness

MELANCHOLIA

SYMPTOMS: DEPRESSION, SADNESS, INSOMNIA
Melancholia was, with mania and dementia, one of the most common diagnoses of mental illness in the 19th century. Today, we would refer to it as depression.



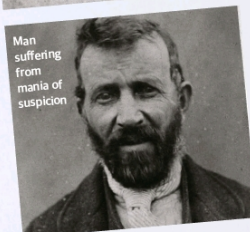
Woman suffering from acute melancholia

IDIOTCY

SYMPTOMS: RECKLESSNESS, INDISCRETION, BEING ILLOGICAL
An idiot was someone with a serious learning disability. Under the 19th-century classification system, it was used to denote someone of the lowest type of intelligence and mental function.

HYSTERIA

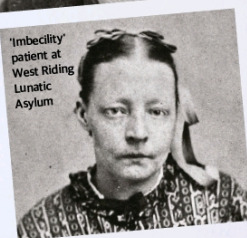
SYMPTOMS: NERVOUSNESS, FRENZY, A SENSE OF IRRATIONALITY
Hysteria was a condition commonly ascribed to women, and they could be diagnosed as such simply by displaying inappropriate behaviour. In the Victorian era, this could be linked to sexual behaviour.



Man suffering from mania of suspicion

MANIA

SYMPTOMS: EUPHORIA, DELUSION, PSYCHOSIS
Mania could cover a variety of behaviours. By the end of the 19th century, doctors at the West Riding Lunatic Asylum were recording their patients as suffering from "simple" or "acute" manias, or even so-called 'monomania' – a fixation with a single object, person or idea.

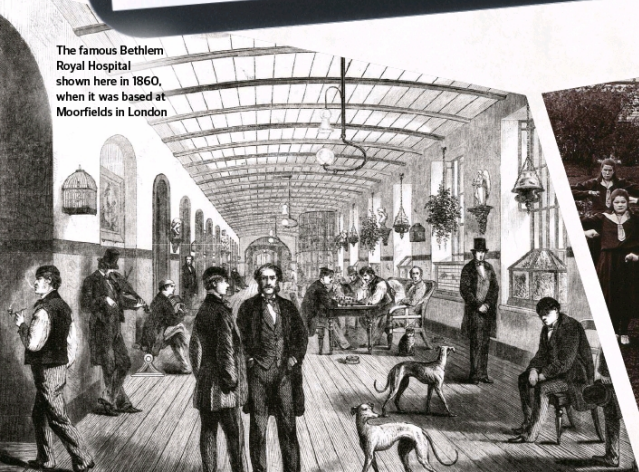


'Imbecility' patient at West Riding Lunatic Asylum

IMBECILITY

SYMPTOMS: FOOLISH, UNWISE OR SILLY BEHAVIOUR
An imbecile was an individual with a moderate learning disability – so someone who functioned better than an 'idiot' but worse than a 'moron', as defined by Victorian classifications.

The famous Bethlem Royal Hospital shown here in 1860, when it was based at Moorfields in London



By giving them a medical diagnosis and a spell in an asylum, their families' reputations could be kept safe from scandal.

However, by the mid-19th century, a more humane system of treating the mentally ill was being introduced in Bethlem and other institutions. The aim was to make the patients' enforced stay as enjoyable as possible, without over-stimulating or 'exciting' them. They now had beauty to look at, such as beautiful grounds filled with shrubs and flowers, and they were able to take part in organised exercise, including "walks for pleasure".

Trips outside of the asylum were organised for those able to take part – some patients were seen visiting the British Museum and Kew Gardens, while others were taken to art exhibitions. It was noted that a regular change of scene helped 'cure' many patients where previous treatments had failed. But, perhaps just as importantly, doctors were able to remove the fear that members of the public often felt towards the patients by regularly introducing them into 'normal' society.

The presence of those deemed 'mad' actually helped to normalise those who were different, and it aided them in being accepted by others. As one newspaper reported, the trips out of the asylum "do much to remove from the affliction of madness those surroundings of fear which have hitherto tended so much to aggravate the calamity, and place the subject of it beyond the reach of active sympathies and kindly help".

Additionally, there were monthly parties in Bethlem with singing, piano playing and even lectures on different subjects, such as foreign travel. One patient, a bookbinder who had been admitted in a "hopeless state of moping idiocy", was so stimulated by one of these that his condition started to improve dramatically. He was able to take on a job in the asylum, restoring some of the aged and damaged books in the library.

One of Bethlem's most famous patients, the artist Richard Dadd, had been admitted in 1843 after killing his father and claiming that he had heard

voices commanding him to commit the murder. He spent the rest of his life, a further 23 years, in Bethlem and Broadmoor, and was allowed to continue painting – although some of his creations revealed his wretched state of mind, as he spent all of his days incarcerated with others who he had little in common with.

PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH

In Dublin, William Stanley, surgeon and proprietor of the Jamestown House asylum, advertised his establishment as being a "delightful and healthy mansion" with pianos, books and extensive grounds that the patients could stroll through. He stressed the "family" environment of the institution and that his mansion looked just like "any private residence". In addition, various doctors and inspectors were now focusing on the fact

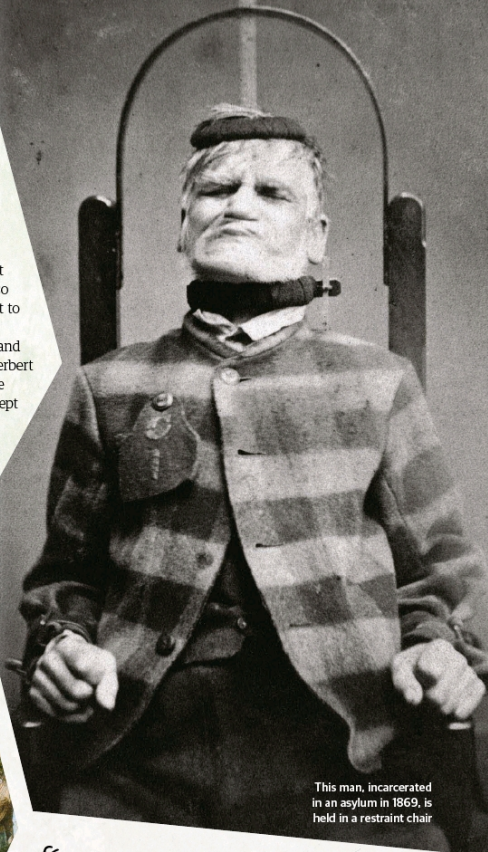
that lunatics should be treated as sentient beings.

The medical superintendent of the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum, Dr James Crichton-Browne, invited medical students to the establishment for tutorials in an effort to further psychiatric research. He also studied brain pathology in an attempt to better understand his patients.

In 1895, a local government board and poor law inspector by the name of Herbert Jenner-Fust argued that young people classed as 'imbeciles' should not be kept in asylums – instead, they should be housed separately and given an education. In other words, they should not simply be written off.



Richard Dadd's Fairy Feller's Master-Stroke



This man, incarcerated in an asylum in 1869, is held in a restraint chair

"THERE WERE MONTHLY PARTIES IN BETHLAM WITH SINGING"

THE HUMAN RAT-TRAP

The American journalist who exposed asylum conditions

Elizabeth Cochran, known professionally as Nellie Bly, was an American journalist who embarked on her career at the age of 21. In 1887, she went undercover for the newspaper *New York World*, getting committed to the Blackwell's Island Asylum. She had noted that the way in which asylums operated was masked or hidden by "white-capped nurses, as well as by bolts and bars", meaning the public had little idea of what went on there.

Once she had been admitted to the asylum, which she described as "a human rat-trap – easy to get in, but impossible to get out", Bly acted as she normally would rather than pretending to be mad. Yet she found that "the more sanely I talked and acted, the crazier I was thought to be".

Bly reported, "I never heard the nurses address the patients except to scold or yell at them." They were frequently beaten, had their heads held underwater and told they would be left there to die, or were stripped naked and put in a cold bath. One girl reportedly died after such treatment while Bly was there. Patients were "made crazy" by being injected with morphine, and left starving, thirsty and isolated.

After spending ten days in the asylum, Bly left and her exposé was soon published. Her courage was applauded by papers on both sides of the Atlantic and the report resulted in a major investigation, which brought about much-needed improvements at the asylum like better budgets, food and sanitary conditions, and the replacement of the brutal nurses.



Women exercising at the Metropolitan Lunatic Asylum in Kew

Victorian Asylums

It was around this time, too, that the 'talking cure' was developed. This pioneering method encouraged of patients to talk about their lives and emotions to release any suppressed trauma. In the last decade of the 19th century, the term was adopted by renowned Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud, and it later formed part of the basis for his clinical method of psychoanalysis.

The 20th century brought further change for Bedlam and its patients. In the 1930s, the hospital relocated from its old, decrepit site in Southwark to leafy Beckenham in Bromley. Today, the Imperial War Museum occupies the old Southwark building, which was gifted to the local authorities by a philanthropic owner, Lord Rothermere. However, the two wings of the notorious Victorian building have since been demolished.

In the early 20th century, the word 'bedlam' was used to denote any irrational decision. Although it was most commonly utilised to refer to unwise

political decisions, it was noted that all classes could suffer from 'idiocy out of Bedlam' – not just the elite or the labouring classes, but also the middling sorts. Bedlam had become a byword for any kind of stupidity, and its long and real existence as a place to house the mentally ill had become sidelined rather than forgotten altogether.

Today, in an era where mental illness is treated much more sympathetically, the tales of the bedlam in Bethlem Royal Hospital are there to remind us both of the horrific attitudes to mental health of the past, and the laudable attempts of those throughout history who have worked tirelessly to change the situation.



A main restrained by warders in West Riding Lunatic Asylum in 1869

A PIECE OF THEIR MINDS

The museum that showcases Bedlam's past



Colin Gale is the archivist at Bethlem: Museum of the Mind. We asked him about what the museum contains, and what it offers those who want to find out more about the history of mental health care.

You've written about a 17th-century patient at Bethlem called John Taylor, who was in fact admitted not for insanity but for making blasphemous speeches. Do we know why he was actually sent there? Jonathan Andrews has written about this case in his 1997 book *The History of Bethlem*, which I have referenced in my blog post about Taylor. (You can read that at <http://bit.ly/2F74oM>)

In the absence of admission records for the time of his residence at Bethlem between 1675 and 1678, it is impossible to say for sure why he was sent there. However, it is fairly clear that his was a state committal. This means that he was brought to Bethlem at the instigation of the government and the hospital had little option but to admit him as a result.

What do the archival collections at Bethlem include? The archival collections at Bethlem: Museum of the Mind consist of committee minutes dating all the way back to 1553, admission records from 1683 onwards, medical records from as far back as 1815 and many other unique items of paperwork. These all come together to form incredibly rich resources for reconstructing hospital and patient life over centuries.

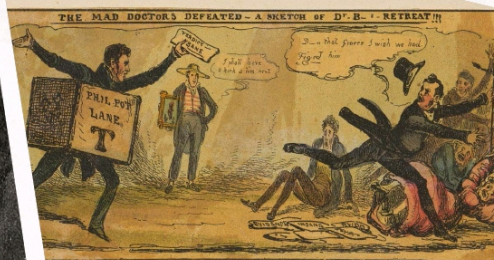
The museum also houses a number of artworks. Could you explain a bit about what these are and who they were produced by? The museum has a collection of approximately 1,000 artworks, mainly the work of former patients and painted over a range of about 200 years. These open up a number of important perspectives on the experience of mental distress and health care.

What can you tell us about your forthcoming exhibition? The museum opened a new temporary exhibition at the beginning of March. Its primary focus is the work of artist Cynthia Pell, who is sometimes also known as Mrs Cynthia Weldon.

Encased: The Work of Cynthia Pell will be at Bethlem: Museum of the Mind until 22 June. For more information, visit museumofthemind.org.uk



In 1830, a successful legal case was apparently brought by two men against a doctor who confined them in his asylum



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Tamerlane's REIGN OF TERROR

The so-called 'Scourge of God' built an empire that left people quaking from Damascus to Delhi

Written by Alice Barnes-Brown

The bloody reputation of Mongol ruler Tamerlane precedes him. Remembered for his gruesome military campaigns in which tens of millions of people may have been slaughtered, the great warrior Tamerlane – otherwise known as Timur – possessed a vast territory, stretching from Delhi to the Mediterranean. As the most powerful ruler in the 14th-century Islamic world, he was both feared and respected by his contemporaries. However, his legacy in the West mainly comes from obscene caricatures, such as Christopher Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*, in which the savage emperor treats human life with as much respect as he would an ant. But was 'Timur the Lame' merely a simple, brutish warrior?

A century and a half before Timur's birth, Genghis Khan roamed the plains of Central Asia. Famously spending his life pillaging and murdering, when Genghis died, the Mongol conqueror split the spoils of his empire between four of his descendants. Chagatai, his second eldest son, was granted a large tract of land. Becoming known as the Chagatai Khanate, the steppes, deserts and mountains of the region made it one of the most beautiful parts of Genghis Khan's old empire – but it was also one of the most remote.

Their neighbours to the north, the Golden Horde, were a scary bunch. Ruled by Genghis Khan's grandson, these lawless tribes pillaged towns and villages from Eastern Europe to the Altay Mountains. The Chagatai Khanate, meanwhile, largely subsisted on nomadic herding and was heavily fraught with internal divisions.

The khanate quickly split into two parts – the powerful east was called Moghulistan and the less fortunate west was known as Transoxiana.

It was in this divided world that Timur was born in 1336. His father, Taraqai, was a minor nobleman from the Barlas tribe – a group of nomads that made their home in the area south of Samarkand. The young Timur never stayed in one place for all that long, as his clan would repeatedly uproot themselves (and their livestock) to find the best grazing pastures whenever the seasons changed.

Realising that there was profit to be made in illegal activity, Timur turned to petty crime.

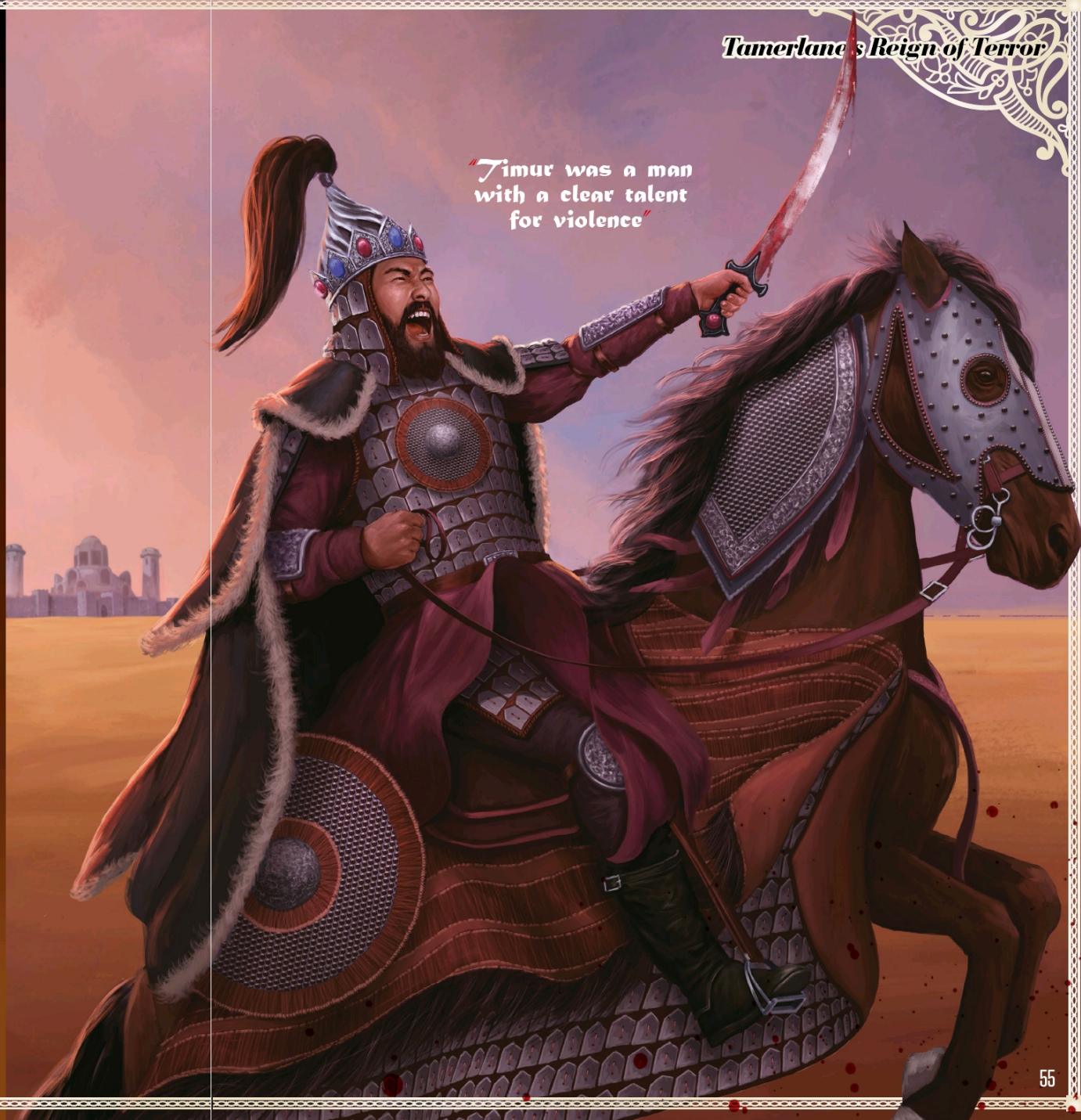
His first exploits involved rustling sheep from neighbours and he quickly added banditry to his list of dodgy dealings, making travellers tremble in their boots. A man with a clear talent for violence, Timur apparently worked as a mercenary in his 20s, and was once seriously injured by an arrow during a skirmish.

Timur defeats the Mamluk sultan at the Siege of Damascus in 1400



Tamerlane's Reign of Terror

"Timur was a man with a clear talent for violence"



Timur's Brutal Body Count

17 million
people – or five per cent
of the world's total
population – but this is
impossible to verify

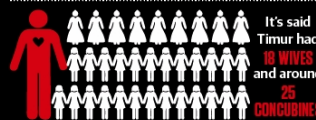


16 modern day COUNTRIES



2,600 MILES

the empire's width from Ankara to Delhi



70,000
people killed and
stacked their heads
into a tower

The Timurid Empire lasted just 137 years



27 THRONES

At the gates of Delhi, Timur allegedly massacred

100,000

Hindu prisoners

Hindu prisoners



Timur shoots the melancholy Bayezid I a stony glare while the Ottoman emperor is held captive

For some, this injury would mean the end of their crime spree but Timur's were only just beginning. His ambitions knew no bounds and when the ruler of Transoxiana died in 1357, Timur spotted an unmissable opportunity. Aligning himself with the khan of Moghulistan, Transoxiana's archenemy, the powerful duo installed themselves on the vacant Transoxiana throne. Ilyas Khoja, the khan's son, was proclaimed king but Timur was the power behind the crown. However, he wouldn't be content with being second best for long and in 1364, he switched his loyalties yet again.

This time, Timur rushed to the side of his brother-in-law, Amir Husayn, who had a score to settle with the khan of Moghulistan and by 1366, he and Timur had conquered all of the Transoxiana region. Still, Timur had no desire to share power with anyone and turned on Husayn. In a fight to the death at the city of Balkh, Husayn was assassinated and Timur proclaimed himself the unchallenged ruler.

As he saw it, Timur's mission was to restore Mongol rule to the glory days of Genghis Khan, reigning supreme over lands from Korea to the Caspian Sea. Never one for diplomacy, Timur rushed through a political marriage to Husavn's

Timur's mission was to restore Mongol rule to the glory days of Genghis Khan

widow, Saray Mulk Khanum. She was a direct descendant of Genghis Khan on her father's side and Timur believed that he would be able to use this to make him a more convincing leader in the eyes of the people.

If they weren't completely sold, they'd soon meet a grisly end. Timur wasted no time in showing his enemies who was boss in the most brutal way possible. He spent the first ten years of his rule establishing supremacy over his neighbours, demanding they surrender to him. If they refused, he would destroy their cities and enslave or murder everyone inside.

Timur, seated in resplendent yellow on his throne, orders a military campaign against Georgia



EMPIRE OF BLOOD

In his quest to be the next Genghis Khan, Timur conquered much of Asia

Стих 1402

The port city of Smyrna, defended by the Knights Hospitaller after it was won during the Crusades, was too tempting a target for Timur to resist. In a bold move, the city refused to pay tribute to Timur, so he attacked it with siege engines and blocked the harbour to prevent people from escaping. After killing many Christian refugees and Muslims alike, he burned the city to the ground.

Ankara 1402

Timur marched to Ankara to meet his adversary, Bayezid I, deep within Ottoman territory. After leading his army across the desert in the heat of summer, the Ottoman emperor's troops were exhausted. Timur cut off their main source of water, which forced them into a fight. While the Ottoman cavalry from Serbia got off to a strong start, Timur soon annihilated them and took Bayezid back to Samarkand as a spoil of war.

The Caucasus 1385

At the crossroads of Western Asia and Europe, Azerbaijan and its Christian neighbours Georgia and Armenia became a battleground for many empire-builders. Timur first conquered the Caucasus region in 1385 but it was snatched from him by Tokhtamysh, another Mongol warlord from the Golden Horde. On his way to Turkey in 1400, Timur re-established his control over the region with ruthless efficiency.

Samarqand 1370

Timur, upon defeating the rulers of the Chagatai Khanate and his own brother-in-law, proclaimed himself amir (general) and restorer of Genghis Khan's legacy. Samarkand was to become Timur's regal city, the culture capital of the Islamic world. Dotted with beautiful turquoise and jade mosques, palaces and gardens, Samarkand became the glittering jewel of the desert under Timur's reign.



Damascus 1401

When citizens of Damascus heard Timur was on his way, they bolted the doors and took to the city walls in an attempt to defend themselves. Incredibly, Damascus held out for a full month before surrendering. Timur allegedly promised them security but once he had gained entry to the city, his true nature was revealed. He first extorted a huge ransom from its citizens, then let his men loose to do as they pleased. Only infant children and the elderly were spared death.

Baghdad 1401

By the time Timur had finished pillaging this once great garden city, there was nothing left but rubble. Tens of thousands of its citizens were slaughtered as vengeance for not surrendering immediately and its key city buildings were destroyed. The only ones to survive Timur's relentless siege were the artists and craftsmen, who were sent to Samarkand to embellish Timur's grandiose city.

**Syr Darya
River 1405**

On his way to challenge the Ming dynasty, Timur and his army stopped at the town of Otrar to wait for the bitter cold weather to pass. However, Timur fell ill. His doctors desperately tried to cure him, even by placing him in a bath of ice to bring his fever down. He apparently spoke eloquently to his companions, telling them to pray to Allah to have mercy on him. He died shortly thereafter.

Delhi 1398

After Timur crossed the Indus river, he headed straight for the terrified Delhi Sultanate. One story goes that Timur understood war elephants were easily scared, so he sent camels with fire on their backs to wildly charge at the great beasts. The elephants ran away and the battle was won. The Mongol conqueror quickly laid siege to the rich city of Delhi, which was left entirely in ruins – leaving the few survivors of his attack homeless.

In 1383, Persia found itself on Timur's hit list. The once mighty empire was weakened by internal strife and division, which Timur took full advantage of. Beginning with the conquest of Herat, he plundered the ancient city of its treasures and destroyed many of its important landmarks.

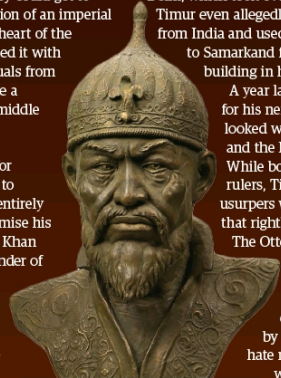


Architects work on Timur's Great Mosque in Samarkand in this 1467 manuscript

Rumours of such horrific treatment reached other Persian cities and knowing that Timur would soon reach their walls, they had a decision to make. Some places, like Tehran, surrendered without question and Timur allegedly treated them mercifully. Others would not go down without a fight, so they were annihilated. In Isfahan, which rose up against Timur's hefty taxation, he responded by massacring its citizens and building towers out of their skulls.

The only group of people seemingly to escape such horrors were the artisans and craftspeople. Timur didn't spare them out of the kindness of his heart, though. He forcibly deported them to the city of Samarkand so they could get to work building his elaborate vision of an imperial capital. The city was to be the heart of the Islamic world and so Timur filled it with artists, architects and intellectuals from across Asia. Samarkand became a thriving hub of culture in the middle of Central Asia.

As well as simply being vainglorious, Timur's reasons for building Samarkand as an ode to God and Islamic culture were entirely practical. He was keen to legitimise his rule by both invoking Genghis Khan and stressing his role as a defender of Islam. Timur's personality cult centred on the notion that he was the 'Scourge of Allah', placed on Earth by God to defend the true religion. While he constantly flouted the rules of Islam – namely, that Muslims should not kill – he invoked



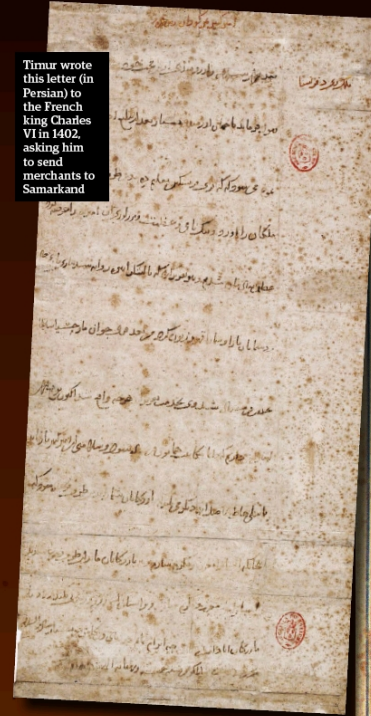
A facial reconstruction of Timur based on measurements of his remains

God often as a means of support for his military campaigns, legitimising them in the people's eyes.

But as the empire expanded, it started to incorporate peoples of different faiths, who thus had to be forced into submission. It was on this pretext that Timur invaded India in 1398. Having kept a watchful eye over the Muslim rulers of the Delhi Sultanate, the Mongol conqueror decided they had become too tolerant of their Hindu subjects and it was time for him to take matters into his own hands. In September 1398, Timur and his army of approximately 90,000 men crossed over the Indus River. Destroying cities on the way, he quickly defeated the sultan and laid waste to Delhi, which took over a year to lick its wounds. Timur even allegedly captured 90 war elephants from India and used them to haul stone back to Samarkand for a great mosque he was building in his capital.

A year later, Timur was on the hunt for his next conquest. This time, he looked west to the Ottoman Empire and the Mamluk Sultanate of Egypt. While both had powerful Muslim rulers, Timur saw them only as usurpers who had stolen territory that rightly belonged to the Mongols. The Ottoman sultan, Bayezid I, for example, had offended Timur by taking Mongol lands in Anatolia. Timur even tried to warn him off by sending him some serious hate mail in 1399. In a letter he wrote, 'Thy obedience to the Qur'an, in waging war against the infidels, is the

Timur wrote this letter (in Persian) to the French king Charles VI in 1402, asking him to send merchants to Samarkand



It was time for him to take matters into his own hands

sole consideration that prevents us from destroying thy country'.

However, Bayezid wasn't phased. He responded with a cutting remark: 'What are the arrows of the flying Tatar against the scimitars and battle-axes of my firm and invincible Janissaries?' So, an enraged Timur set out to test the Ottoman elite guard's invincibility. On his way to Constantinople, Timur reconquered Azerbaijan and Syria before inflicting yet more brutality, this time on beleaguered Baghdad. Up to 20,000 of its citizens were killed and its monuments destroyed. After all, these ancient cities could not possibly create potential competition for Samarkand.

When he finally reached Turkey, Timur allegedly promised not to shed blood if the town of Sivas surrendered. Trusting his word, they did. It's said he had 3,000 of the townspeople buried alive, and Timur maintained that he had kept his promise. After all, there was no blood.



Timur defeats the Delhi Sultanate in this illustration from the 1590s

THE CURSE OF TAMERLANE

When Timur was buried in 1405, he wanted to ensure that no one would disturb his eternal slumber. Allegedly, he had the words 'when I rise, the world shall tremble' and 'whomsoever disturbs my tomb shall unleash an invader more terrible than I' inscribed on his tomb, so that potential grave diggers would hopefully get the message and leave him alone. Unfortunately for Timur, this wasn't actually an effective deterrent. In 1740, a Persian invader named Nadir Shah broke into the Gura-Amir and was so impressed by Timur's magnificent sarcophagus that he risked stealing it. He carried the jade slab back to Persia but it broke in half in transit. Incidentally, the shah suffered a lengthy run of bad

luck thereafter. His son had a very close brush with death and the shah was advised to return the stone. But the spirit of Timur had apparently not forgiven him and the shah was assassinated a few years later. Soviet archaeologist Mikhail Gerasimov was next to try his luck. As Uzbekistan was then part of the USSR, he travelled to Samarkand in 1941 to conduct experiments on Timur's remains. In the dead of night on 22 June 1941, he removed Timur's skeleton from its place. As the sun rose the next morning, Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa, his large-scale invasion of the USSR. Was this just coincidence or the ruthless Timur causing misery even from beyond the grave?



Timur's grave marker (the dark, jade sarcophagus in the centre) was once stolen by a Persian invader



Timur was inspired by the reign of Genghis Khan over a century before

On special occasions, Timur would grant the public an audience with him



Timur evidently placed great significance on these feasts, as one guest was punished for turning up late by having his nose pierced like a pig

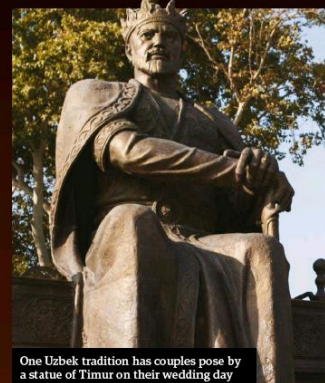
Near Ankara, Bayezid met Timur's army on 20 July 1402 for a dramatic showdown. Timur was a shrewd tactician, so he circumvented Bayezid and attacked his army from behind. After a short battle, the sultan was captured and dragged back to Samarkand kicking and screaming. There, he was allegedly subjected to a variety of imaginative humiliations – from Timur using him as a footstool to being put on display in a golden cage.

Ironically, some rulers in Western Europe supported Timur. They thought he was helping them to achieve Christian goals by keeping the Ottomans – a powerful Islamic empire right on their doorstep with a beady eye on Hungary – at bay. Upon learning of his victory at Ankara, England's Henry IV and Charles VI of France sent messages declaring their congratulations to Timur. The Spanish kingdom of Castile went even further and dispatched an envoy, led by Ruy González de Clavijo, to Samarkand.

Clavijo described in fantastical detail the wondrous and exotic goings-on he saw at Timur's

court. Arriving in 1404, he described Timur's 15 palaces, which blended nomadic and Islamic traditions. Some of them were essentially grand tents that could be packed up and moved when necessary. Treated as honoured guests, the Spaniards dined each night at lavish feasts, which were always preceded by bouts of heavy drinking – allegedly following Mongol tradition. Timur evidently placed great significance on these feasts, as one guest was punished for turning up late by having his nose pierced like a pig.

Just after Clavijo and his crew started on their long journey back to Madrid in November 1404, Timur set off for what would turn out to be his last hurrah. Samarkand had been trading with Ming China for a long time, but Timur had grown tired of being treated like a vassal. For example, when a message from China arrived in 1395 calling the Ming emperor "lord of the realms of the face of the earth", and treating Timur like an inferior, he decided to detain the Chinese messengers. When China dispatched more envoys to find out what



One Uzbek tradition has couples pose by a statue of Timur on their wedding day

happened to them, Timur supposedly imprisoned the second batch as well.

Timur's plan was to overthrow the Ming and replace them with the Yuan dynasty, Mongol rulers established by Kublai Khan. While he normally embarked on his expeditions in the spring, in order to take advantage of good weather, he bucked his own trend and departed Samarkand in December 1404 with an army of approximately 200,000 troops. His chief astrologers had told him that the stars were in favourable alignment. What could go wrong?

Unfortunately for Timur, the stars turned out to be more favourable for China than they were for him. He fell ill on the frosty banks of the Syr Darya River in Uzbekistan and died – possibly of cold – in February 1405. With no leader to inspire a victory, Timur's army decided to turn around and head back home. The fearsome conqueror was embalmed in fragrant oils and placed in an elaborate ivory coffin for the journey to his final resting place, the beautiful Gur-e-Amir in Samarkand, his treasured city.

Like Genghis Khan, Timur had divided his territory between his male descendants but ultimately his empire was built on fear, terror and pillaging rather than good governance. Timur's successors would spend the next few decades fighting each other over the land and soon his vast empire would crumble.

However, the legacy of the 'Sword of Islam' continues to this day. His double-great-grandson Babur founded the iconic Mughal dynasty of India, a ruling family responsible for creating stunning, Timurid-inspired monuments like the Taj Mahal and Delhi's Red Fort. While Timur was thoroughly deserving of his bloodthirsty reputation, he left a unique visual impression on the city of Samarkand, and transformed the area from a neglected desert outpost to a centre for cultural, intellectual and religious exchange for generations to come. Not bad for a man who began his career as a lame sheep bandit.

The Crossroad of Cultures

When he wasn't away on campaign or killing people in droves, Timur loved to construct great monuments to his power and wealth. While only a few structures still survive today, they give us a unique insight into the ruler's personality and ambition. Intending to make Samarkand a great capital, Timur envisioned a city returned to the glory days of the Silk Road, bustling with people from all parts of his empire.

However, his methods of achieving this goal were no different to the ways he conducted war. He forced people to come from territories he had conquered, and treated his architects very badly indeed if they did not

please him. But Timur appears to have taken something of a carrot and stick approach to construction projects. According to Clavijo, he threw cooked meat and coins to builders working on the foundations to encourage them to work faster. However, if they didn't meet his unrealistic deadlines, it would be the end of them.

The result was a stunning, well-designed city that was filled with ornate public squares, madrassas, mosques, gardens and all manner of palaces. Even after Timur's death, the Samarkand region continues to be a place of great beauty, as his successors developed on the conqueror's original vision.



GUR-E-AMIR

Timur's tomb in Samarkand, the Gur-e-Amir, is covered in elaborate blue tiling. Topped with a trademark dome, Timur's grave is marked with a stunning slab of jade, rumoured to be the largest ever found at the time.

AQ SARAY PALACE

After winning a resounding victory in the town of Shahrissabz, Timur commissioned an incredible white palace to stand on the site. Today, only the ruined walls of the great hall survive – it was once one of the largest of its kind.



THE REGISTAN

The Registan was built soon after Timur's death and this public square bears his influence everywhere you look. On each side is a madrassa – a place of learning – adorned with incredibly lavish decorations influenced by other parts of the Timurid Empire.



BUILDING THE BIG APPLE

Discover what the iconic New York City skyline looked like under construction

Written by Jessica Leggett



DIZZYING HEIGHTS

The first great age of New York City's skyscraper construction was from 1900-10. Unlike today, there were no health and safety regulations and this meant the men that built these great towers were not provided with hard hats or safety harnesses. But this didn't prevent workers from flocking to New York. Pictured here are some construction workers from 1912, precariously grasping onto the chains of a crane.

THE CITY WITHIN A CITY

The construction of the Rockefeller Center is well underway in this photograph from December 1934. The largest private building project at the time, the 14 original buildings of the centre's complex were completed in 1940 by a workforce of over 40,000 people. In the decades since, another five buildings have been created, and the complex has developed into a cultural hub. Since the first official Christmas tree was erected in 1933, it has become one of the hallmarks for holiday tradition in New York, alongside the Ice rink, which was installed in 1936. In 1985, it was designated as an NYC landmark, recognising its importance to the city skyline. It was made a National Historic Landmark two years later.



BREAKING NEW GROUND

The construction of the Flatiron Building began in 1902. Situated between Fifth Avenue and Broadway, it boasts a unique triangular design. Originally called the Fuller Building, after its tenants the Fuller Company, it was given the nickname 'flatiron' because of its shape. Though it looks like iron-shaped, the building is actually a right-angled triangle. It was also one of the tallest buildings in the city. Initially, there were fears that the building would collapse because it was so thin, and utilised new steel framework. However, this allowed for it to be built quickly, taking just one year to complete. The pointed end is only 2 metres wide.



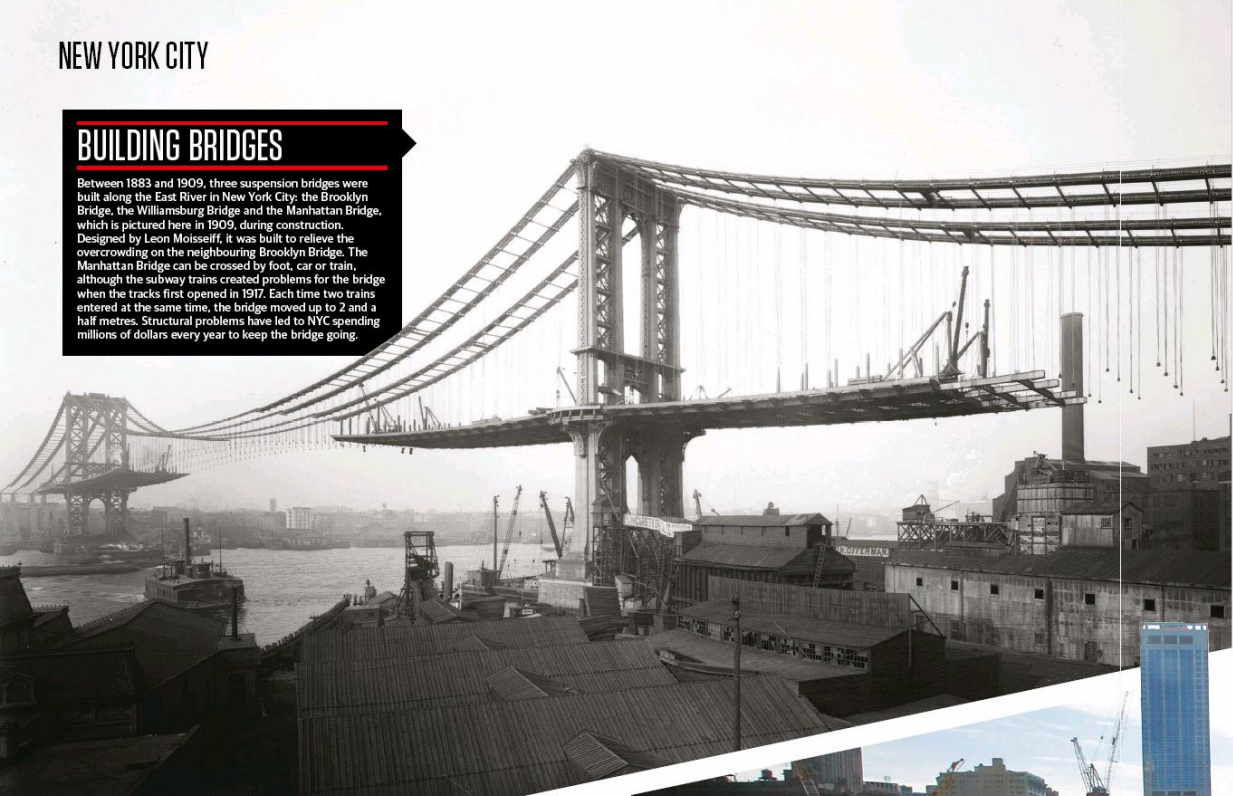
RACE TO THE TOP

Sat on one of the iconic gargoyles atop the Chrysler Building, American photographer and journalist Margaret Bourke-White literally reached new heights to get her shot. She is seen here in 1930, the same year the skyscraper was built. During construction, the Chrysler Building was competing with the Bank of Manhattan to become the world's tallest building, and it won after architect William van Alen allegedly erected a 38-metre spire in just 90 minutes. It remained the world's tallest building until the Empire State Building surpassed it a year later.



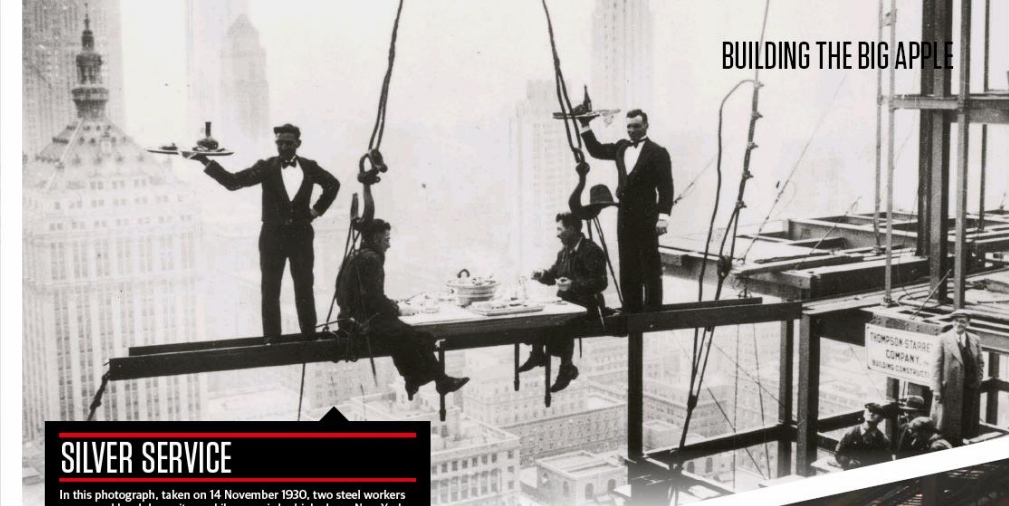
BUILDING BRIDGES

Between 1883 and 1909, three suspension bridges were built along the East River in New York City: the Brooklyn Bridge, the Williamsburg Bridge and the Manhattan Bridge, which is pictured here in 1909, during construction. Designed by Leon Moisseiff, it was built to relieve the overcrowding on the neighbouring Brooklyn Bridge. The Manhattan Bridge can be crossed by foot, car or train, although the subway trains created problems for the bridge when the tracks first opened in 1917. Each time two trains entered at the same time, the bridge moved up to 2 and a half metres. Structural problems have led to NYC spending millions of dollars every year to keep the bridge going.



SILVER SERVICE

In this photograph, taken on 14 November 1930, two steel workers are served lunch by waiters while on a girder high above New York City. The building under construction was the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, which at 191 metres was the world's tallest hotel for quarter of a century, between 1931 and 1957. The hotel was originally two separate buildings – the Waldorf, owned by William Waldorf Astor, and the Astoria, owned by his cousin John Jacob Astor IV. The story goes that after a bitter feud, the pair joined their hotels together to form the Waldorf-Astoria, which was knocked down in 1929 (to make way for the Empire State Building) and rebuilt on Park Avenue.



MIDTOWN MONSTROSITY

Taken on 16 June 1962, two construction workers pose on the 59th floor of the Pan Am building (now MetLife building), as one lightheartedly frames the Empire State Building with his hands. This skyscraper was the global HQ for Pan American World Airways, and offered a helicopter service from its rooftop helipad to John F Kennedy Airport from 1965. The building became a symbol of the golden age of air travel between the 1950s and 1960s, but the helicopter service ended in 1968 as there were not enough passengers to keep it going. It was revived nine years later, only to abruptly end after three months following a tragic accident that killed five people.



RIISING FROM THE ASHES

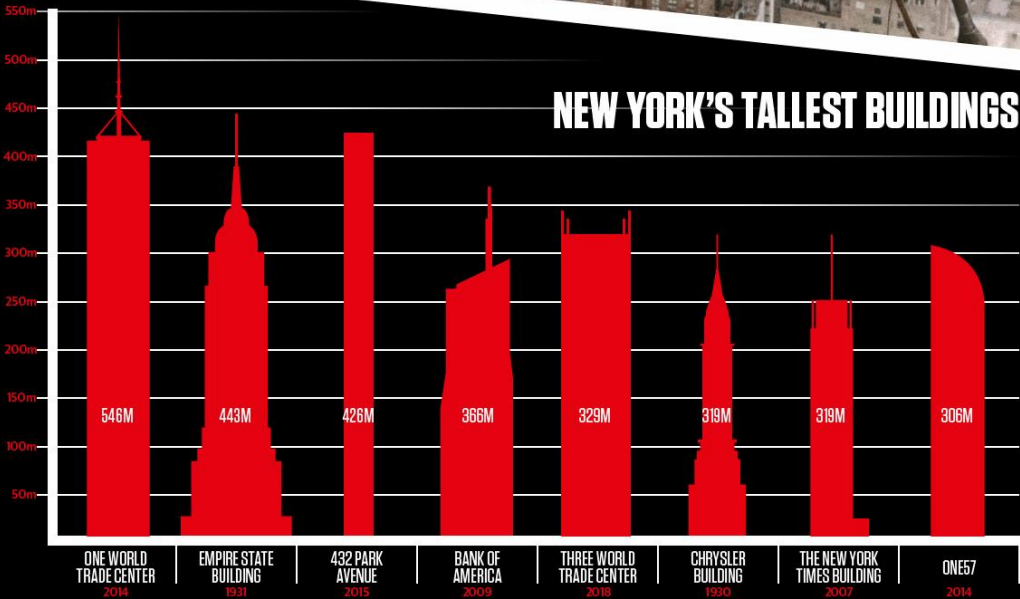
After terrorists struck the World Trade Center towers on 9/11, architects proposed ambitious plans for reconstruction in New York. Some said the designs were impractical and that America could never recover. This photograph from 2010 shows construction on the site after a 16-month stalemate over building new office blocks. The National 9/11 Memorial opened in 2011 and two years later the new 1 World Trade Center building was the tallest in the Western Hemisphere. It reached 1,776 feet (541 metres) high – a symbolic reminder that the United States declared its independence in 1776.



WHAT A VIEW

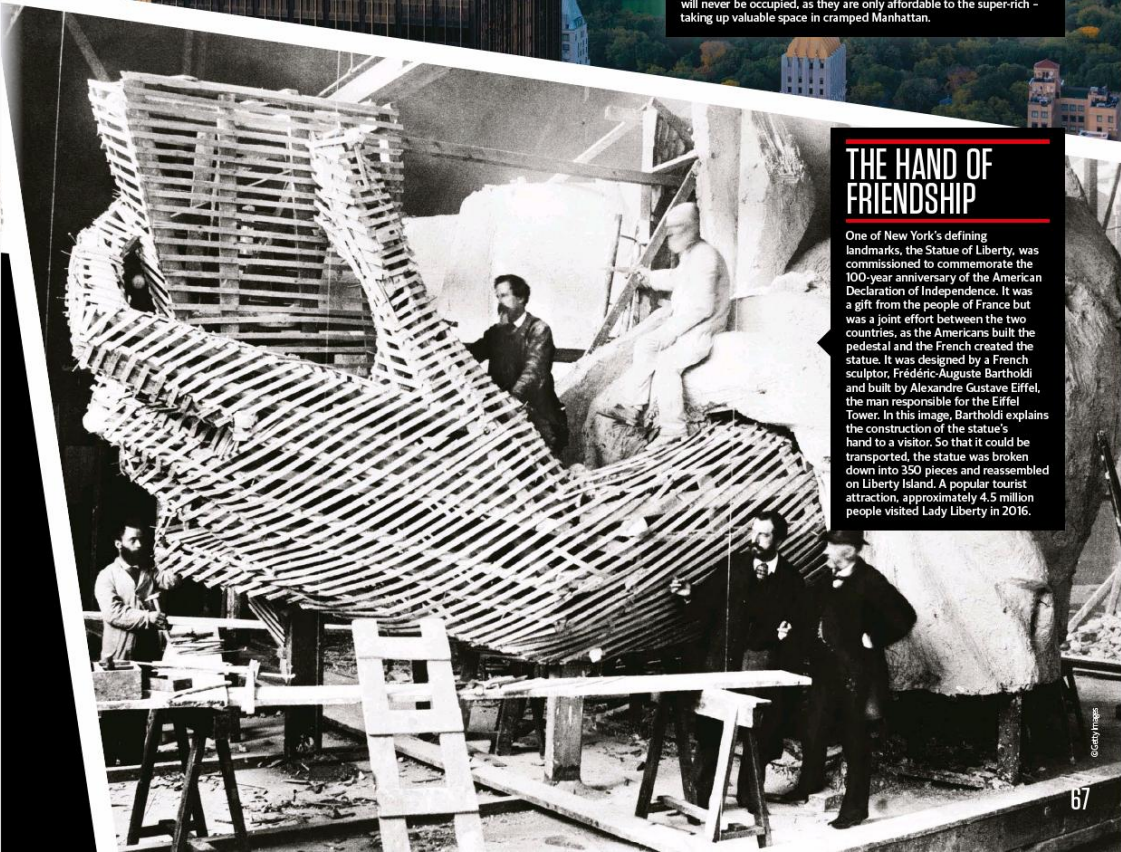
The photograph 'Lunch Atop a Skyscraper' is one of the most iconic images in history. Carefree and enjoying their lunch break, the 11 men are pictured on the 69th floor of the RCA Building of the Rockefeller Center, perched on a thin beam suspended almost 260 metres in the air. It is commonly assumed that the photo captures a spontaneous moment but it was in fact a publicity stunt to promote the centre, although the men featured were all real construction workers. The *New York Herald Tribune* published the photo in October 1932 but the identity of the photographer remains unknown – there were three photographers working that day and any one of them could have taken the famous shot.

NEW YORK'S TALLEST BUILDINGS



THE 'BILLIONAIRE BUILDING'

Located in Manhattan, the ultra-modern One57 skyscraper is pictured a year after its completion in 2014. Home to the most expensive residence ever sold in New York City, at a record total of over \$100 million, the building has triggered a number of so-called 'supertall' projects in the city. As One57 and other supertalls are situated in the vicinity of Central Park, there are fears that they could cast shadows on the idyllic green space, frequented by New Yorkers and tourists alike. There are also concerns that many of the floors in these buildings will never be occupied, as they are only affordable to the super-rich - taking up valuable space in cramped Manhattan.



THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP

One of New York's defining landmarks, the Statue of Liberty, was commissioned to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence. It was a gift from the people of France but was a joint effort between the two countries, as the Americans built the pedestal and the French created the statue. It was designed by a French sculptor, Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi and built by Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, the man responsible for the Eiffel Tower. In this image, Bartholdi explains the construction of the statue's hand to a visitor. So that it could be transported, the statue was broken down into 350 pieces and reassembled on Liberty Island. A popular tourist attraction, approximately 4.5 million people visited Lady Liberty in 2016.



1ST DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH CHURCHILL 1704

How the soldier-statesman set an example of excellence and British military might that inspired his most famous descendant of all – Winston Churchill

Written by Frances White

The liberty of the British Isles is under threat from tyranny in Europe. The country knows it can't survive alone – it needs friends to form a mighty alliance.

Churchill needs to act quickly and with great cunning to secure the relationships that will save the entire continent. His actions at this crucial stage will transform him into one of Britain's greatest war heroes.

You might be forgiven for assuming this sorry scene took place in 1940, in the earliest stages of World War II. However, it's 1702, the conflict is the War of Spanish Succession and the Churchill in question is actually John, 1st Duke of Marlborough. He was a man whose life would mirror and later inspire one of the most famous Britons in history. Churchill's hero worship of John did not simply come from their shared bloodline – it was also down to a very intimate understanding of the pressures placed upon him.

John Churchill was born the son of (another) Winston Churchill, a Member of Parliament who had made the unfortunate decision to fight on the losing side of the English Civil War. Supporting the Cavaliers had cost him dearly and left his large family impoverished. It is believed that the Churchill family motto 'Faithful but Unfortunate' arose from this era. However, their fortunes did improve after the Restoration in 1660, and the young John served as a page to the duke of York – the future James II.

Like his famous descendant, John was a very intelligent young man who found a calling in military service. Just as Winston would join the British Army, John set his heart on becoming a soldier and joined the Grenadier Guards in 1667. His military journey saw him serve in the Franco-Dutch War in 1672, when he was promoted to the rank of captain. He went on to gain a commendation at the Siege of Maastricht where he saved the duke of Monmouth's life – a deed that allegedly earned praise from the French king, Louis XIV.



Sarah Churchill was an incredibly influential figure, especially due to her relationship with Queen Anne

His illustrious career and military acumen ensured that he rose rapidly through the ranks. He was respected by the higher-ups and his courage had also earned him the admiration of the common soldiers. This is not dissimilar to the attention Winston received for his military career and his accounts of the battles he witnessed. Both men were propelled to relative stardom at a young age, and both would feel the resulting pressure and expectation.

Winston's similarities to John did not end on the battlefield. When John returned to Saint

James's Palace, his affections were drawn to the young Sarah Jennings, a beautiful attendant to Princess Anne. Her family had been impoverished by debts and she was hardly the most obvious or appealing prospect for the eligible war hero. Nonetheless, John was besotted. His father wished him to marry a wealthier woman to ease the family debts – but John chose love.

It is clear to see why Winston would feel an affinity for John's decision. After all, he too married for love. His future wife, Clementine Hozier, was the subject of public scrutiny, her true parentage unknown, as her parents divorced and her supposed father abandoned her. Her family sank down the social ladder and were forced to move home. Despite her past, Winston was captivated by Clementine.

Society doubted the staying power of their relationship – a daughter of divorce and a wild military man – but their union lasted 57 years. The marriages of Winston and John were remarkably similar as both men found their match in strong-willed and remarkably loyal women, who stayed by their sides until death did them part.

Like Winston, John was not fated to spend his whole life on the battlefield – politics held some appeal to both men. Upon the ascension of James II, John was appointed lieutenant general, effectively commander-in-chief, as well as peer of the realm. However, England was in the middle of religious rebellion and as one was defeated, another emerged.

**“IT IS CLEAR TO SEE
WHY WINSTON WOULD
FEEL AN AFFINITY FOR
JOHN'S DECISION”**

CHURCHILL ON CHURCHILL

How Winston poured his admiration into arguably his finest literary work

It's no surprise that Winston was inspired by and proud of his famous ancestor, John. He admired both his keen military strategy and also clever diplomacy – two things Winston himself held in very high regard. The idea of an ancestor who never fought a battle he didn't win was inspirational for Winston, and it was this excellent success rate that he wished to replicate in his own military and diplomatic careers. Although they were both from aristocratic backgrounds, the two men were never ones to rest on their laurels and live an entitled lifestyle. They both became heroes in the eyes of the people, so it is easy to see why Winston empathised with his ancestor so dearly.

Although John was respected for his military victories, previous biographers had painted him in an unfavourable light – most notably Thomas Macaulay, writing some 100 years earlier than Winston. Macaulay's work seemed to criticise John's switch of loyalties from James II to William of Orange, painting him in a selfish, villainous light. This opinion was not uncommon, and part of Winston's motivation to tell his own version of John's story was to refute this nasty image.

Winston's biography of his ancestor, *Marlborough: His Life and Times* spanned four volumes and the first was published in 1933. In the preface Winston stated, "It is my hope to recall this great shade from the past, and not only invest him with his panoply, but make him living and intimate to modern eyes." We can see how dedicated he was to this biography, as he allegedly wrote over 300 letters to people, requesting opinions about his work in progress. This was Winston's labour of love for a man he admired greatly.

As expected, the books countered the image presented by Macaulay. They aimed to attribute good and pure reasons to John's changing of sides, such as religious, moral and patriotic motivations. While Winston's work is expertly written and researched, the fact that John deserted a man to whom he owed almost everything is hard to paint over.

Some critics of Winston's work claim that he paints Louis XIV with the same villainous brush that John had once been tarred with. However, the fact remains that, as well written as it is, Winston was still writing about his personal hero. Some level of bias was bound to seep into his work as a result. Nevertheless, the finished product was well received by critics, with Roy Jenkins calling it a "revelation" and political philosopher Leo Strauss dubbing it the greatest historical work of the 20th century.



Blenheim Palace became the home of the Churchill family for the following three centuries

In theory, John was loyal to James II but he grew uneasy about the king's Catholic leanings, apparently declaring that should the monarch attempt to change his religion, "I will instantly quit his service." He was not the only one with misgivings about James' beliefs, and in 1688, the so-called Glorious Revolution broke out with the goal of unseating the sovereign. John's ruthlessness could be seen in full force as he abandoned his king, siding instead with William of Orange and thereby securing James' defeat. It was a political move of calculated coldness.

John's stark resolve and overriding self-belief were not dissimilar to traits displayed by Winston himself. However, Winston was an immensely loyal man, something John was far from. John initially benefited from his shrewd move, such as being bestowed the earldom of Marlborough



Marlborough's string of victories and force of will elevated Britain to a power to be reckoned with

by William and Mary and being given command in Flanders and Ireland between 1689 and 1691. However, the new king couldn't trust a man who would betray his own monarch so easily.

Although John kept inflicting defeats on his enemies, his popularity plummeted and he was thrown into the Tower of London in 1692 on suspicion of trying to restore James II. He was released but the event sent Winston a powerful message – loyalty is one of the most important weapons in the political arsenal. Thankfully, a chance was coming for John to redeem himself. In 1700, after the death of Spain's King Charles II, Europe scrambled for control of the Spanish empire. Louis XIV was close to uniting Spain and France. For England, the Holy Roman Empire and the Dutch Republic, this was unacceptable.

As much as William distrusted John, he couldn't deny that he was best suited to the role of creating a powerful coalition capable of toppling the might of the French crown. William, however, would not live to see the war run its course and when he died in March 1702, John played the part Winston would later find himself in – mounting a war effort against a threat to the British Isles.

Although John had the command he desired, he still struggled to gain the trust of the House of Commons, which was divided on where the attack should be concentrated. It proved a valuable lesson for Winston, who consolidated both his military and domestic leadership of Parliament when he was appointed prime minister.

However, one of John's most valuable lessons to Winston was the importance of friendships with allies in the midst of war. The duke formed strong friendships with Queen Anne, Robert Harley, the speaker of the House of Commons and the High Treasurer Lord Godolphin, all of whom he used to influence and gain favour where possible. Winston described these friendships as "the crucible from which the power and glory of England were soon to rise, gleaming among nations". In fact, the idea of friendship became so important to him that he used it to measure all historical figures.

MARLBOROUGH'S FINEST HOUR

How John defeated the 'invincible' army of Louis XIV at Blenheim

01 STORM OF LEAD

For his diversionary attack on the village of Blenheim, Marlborough gives Lt Gen John Cutts 20 infantry battalions and 15 cavalry squadrons. At 1pm, Cutts' six lines of soldiers advance with little cover, having to endure punishment not only from hundreds of concealed musketeers, but also from a battery of four 24-pounders adjacent to the village. One-third of Rowe's brigade is either killed or wounded in the near-suicidal attack.

02 GREAT BATTERY

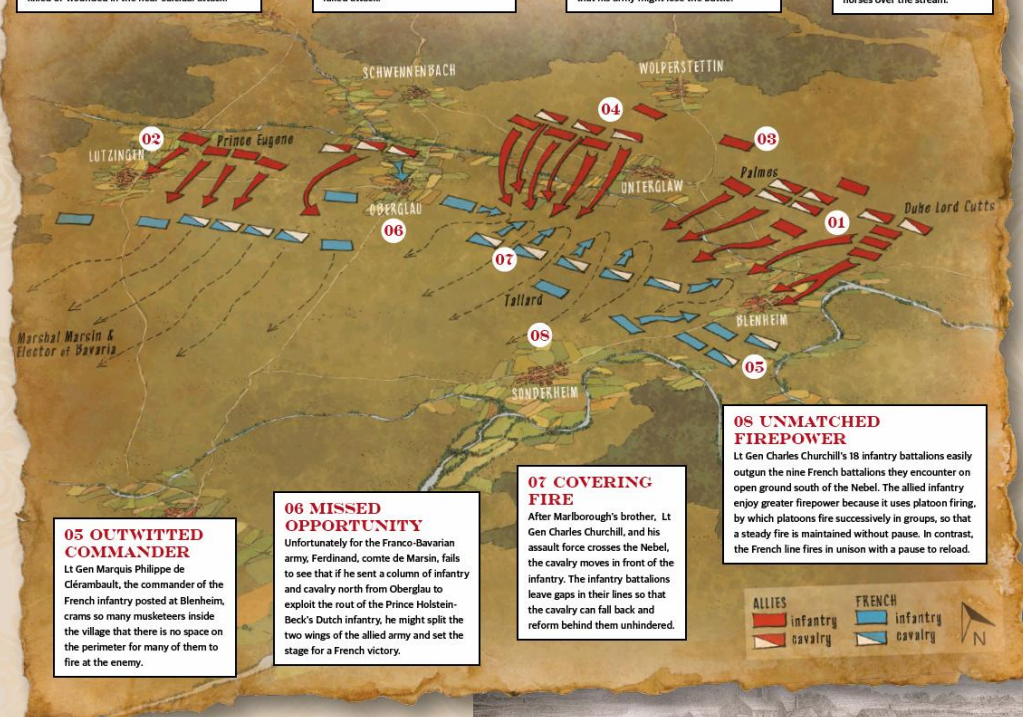
Prince Eugene's attack is spearheaded by Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau's Prussians. A Bavarian 'great battery' of 16 guns wreaks havoc on the Prussians, and a counterattack by Bavarian infantry led by Marshal Count Jean Baptist d'Arco drives them across the Nebel. The Prussians lose ten colours in the failed attack.

03 PUT TO FLIGHT

French morale plummets when the mounted French Gens d'Armes are defeated by a smaller force of English cavalry. "What? Is it possible? The Gentlemen of France fleeing?" remarks Bavarian Elector Maximilian-Emanuel, who watched the shocking defeat. Tallard later said the attack was the first indication that his army might lose the battle.

04 DANGEROUS CROSSING

As Marlborough prepares for his main attack on the middle of the enemy position, allied infantry crosses the Nebel and furnishes protective fire for cavalymen who have dismounted to lead their horses over the stream.



05 OUTWITTED COMMANDER

Lt Gen Marquis Philippe de Clérambault, the commander of the French infantry posted at Blenheim, crams so many musketeers inside the village that there is no space on the perimeter for many of them to fire at the enemy.

06 MISSED OPPORTUNITY

Unfortunately for the Franco-Bavarian army, Ferdinand, comte de Marsin, fails to see that if he sent a column of infantry and cavalry north from Oberglau to exploit the rout of the Prince Holstein-Beck's Dutch infantry, he might split the two wings of the allied army and set the stage for a French victory.

07 COVERING FIRE

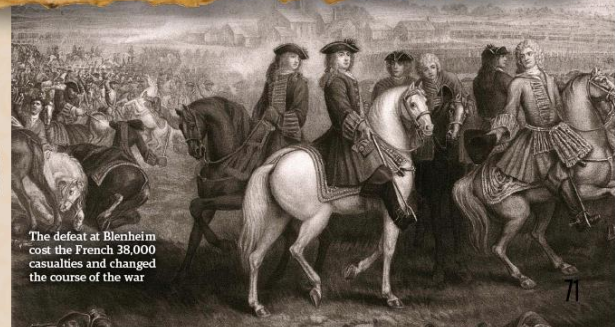
After Marlborough's brother, Lt Gen Charles Churchill, and his assault force crosses the Nebel, the cavalry moves in front of the infantry. The infantry battalions leave gaps in their lines so that the cavalry can fall back and reform behind them unhindered.

08 UNMATCHED FIREPOWER

Lt Gen Charles Churchill's 18 infantry battalions easily outgun the nine French battalions they encounter on open ground south of the Nebel. The allied infantry enjoy greater firepower because it uses platoon firing, by which platoons fire successively in groups, so that a steady fire is maintained without pause. In contrast, the French line fires in unison with a pause to reload.



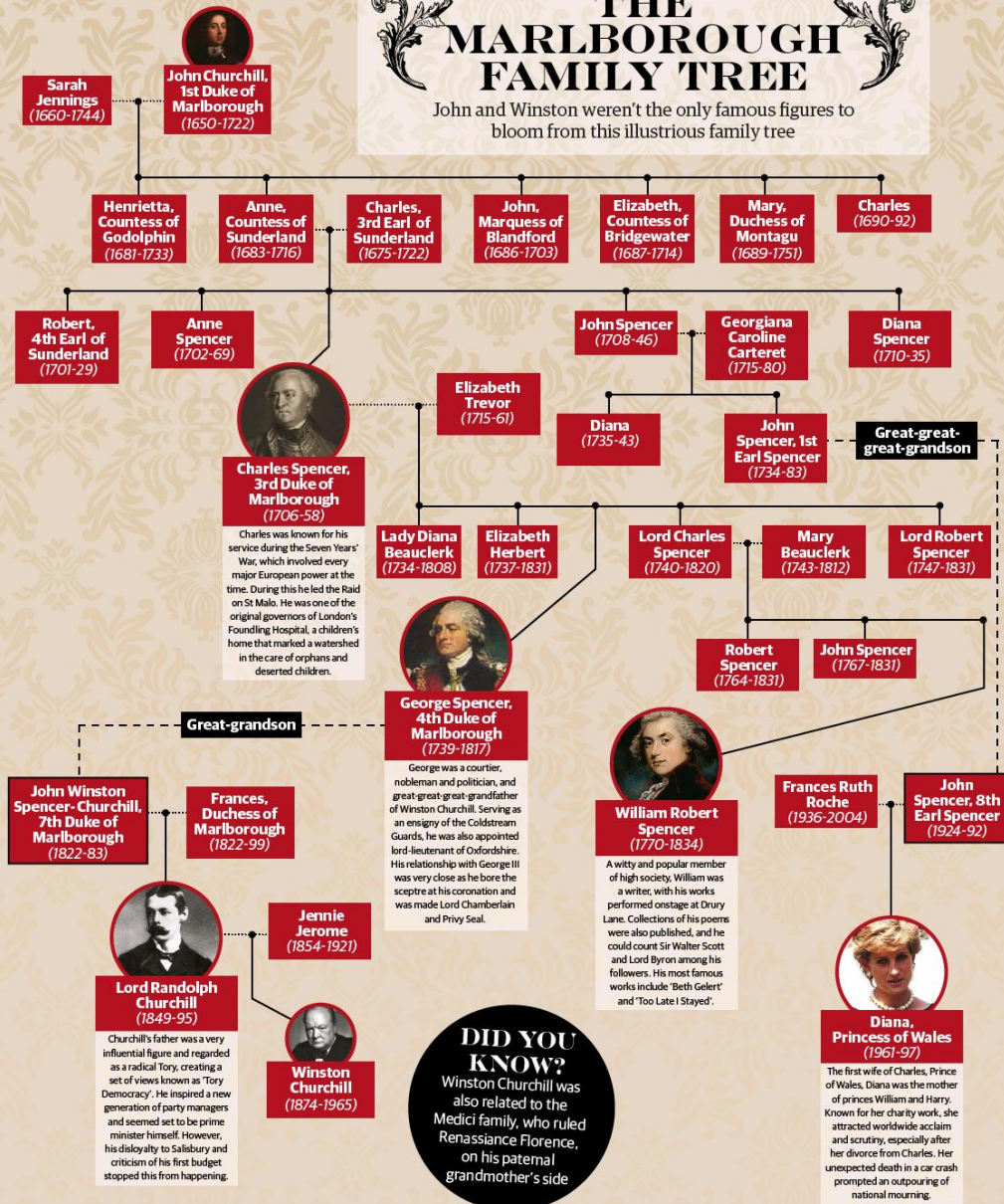
"WINSTON WAS AN IMMENSELY LOYAL MAN"



The defeat at Blenheim cost the French 38,000 casualties and changed the course of the war

THE MARLBOROUGH FAMILY TREE

John and Winston weren't the only famous figures to bloom from this illustrious family tree



Britain was embroiled in the War of the Spanish Succession for the entirety of Queen Anne's reign.

The most important friendship for John was with Prince Eugene of Savoy, general of the Holy Roman Empire's Imperial Army. John and Eugene were like two peas in a pod as they both held immense control and influence over their armies and each understood how important the alliance would be to defeating France. It also helped, of course, that they were both remarkably talented military commanders. Combined, they were unstoppable. The friendship and close bond between the two men meant that their armies acted as a united force.

John, with the help of Eugene, enjoyed victory after victory. At Blenheim, the dynamic duo delivered a crushing defeat to their French and Bavarian foes, turning the tide of the war in their favour. This victory owed a great deal of thanks to the synergy between the different forces which came together to deliver the blow. Winston wrote that Eugene and John acted as “two lobes of the same brain...in constant touch with each other”. There is no doubt that he would have remembered this important example during World War II when he, too, formed a very close connection with a powerful ally – Franklin D Roosevelt, the President of the United States.

The President and Prime Minister, despite the occasional disagreement, shared a close personal rapport, communicated frequently, and both understood the threat of the Axis Powers. For many historians, this friendship was one of the crucial factors that helped the Allies withstand the Nazi threat and win World War II.

John Churchill continued to humiliate his enemies, and win conflicts for his nation. He was immensely knowledgeable and resourceful, able to use whatever he had at his disposal to devastating effect. The duke captured Bonn, Trier and Trarbach and celebrated success at Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet, to name a few. These victories swung the balance of power in Europe and turned France from assailant to defender. John's success across the continent meant that he carved himself a reputation for military excellence.

which was unrivalled until the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. He remains one of the few military commanders in history who was apparently never defeated in battle.

Winston was no doubt inspired by his ancestor's military achievements but his own track record was not to be as glittering. Some of his blunders resulted in the most crushing defeats experienced by the British Army in World War II. However, he did stand as a figurehead for a force that never lost hope, even in the hardest of times. The tally of wins and losses aside, it is likely that this strength of leadership would have impressed even his militarily flawless ancestor. Ultimately, both men achieved what they set out to do – win.

Unlike Winston, John's political victory was far from straightforward. Back home, the number of Tory peers in the cabinet was dwindling and he was forced to conform to Whig demands. France refused to agree to the rather harsh peace terms set out by the Whigs and resumed hostilities. John continued to beat them back down again but at an immense cost to his health. He became thinner and more haggard by the year.

When he tried to take a stand against the peace terms being discussed, he was swiftly dismissed, much to the shock of his allies. Accused of misusing public money, and with fears for his

own fortune – especially as he was still building Blenheim Palace – he went into voluntary exile while the peace negotiations of the war he had won continued without him.

It wasn't until Queen Anne died in 1714 that John returned to his homeland. He rose to favour once again under her successor, George I, and reclaimed some of his influence and prestige. However, John was now an old man and his health was fading rapidly. He reportedly experienced several strokes and lived in the East Wing of the still unfinished Blenheim Palace for three years before a final stroke claimed his life.

The importance of this building to Winston is certainly no secret. It was within those walls that John struggled to build that Winston was born. Inside the idyllic summerhouse, dubbed 'The Temple of Diana', Winston proposed to his future wife, Clementine, sparking one of the most important companionships of his life.

Evidence for the vital relationship between these two famous Britons can still be observed at Chartwell, Winston's home for 40 years. Within the walls of the idyllic country house near the town of Westerham in Kent, in the bedroom that Churchill regarded as his inner sanctum, hangs a portrait of his most ambitious, brilliant ancestor – John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough.

**“HE CARVED HIMSELF
A REPUTATION FOR
MILITARY EXCELLENCE,
WHICH WAS UNRIVALLED.”**

Depiction of the Victory of the Grand Alliance, from 1704



Bluffer's Guide

The Emergency IRELAND, 1939-46

Did you know?

While Ireland remained neutral and didn't fight in World War II, the Irish army grew from 7,000 in 1939 to 41,000 by 1941

Timeline

3 SEPTEMBER 1939



After Britain and France go to war with Germany, Ireland declares an official state of emergency. The government is granted new powers to manage the crisis.

JUNE 1940



Irish leader Éamon de Valera rejects requests from Britain to use the former 'treaty ports' as Allied naval bases for anti-submarine missions.

15 APRIL 1941



When 180 Luftwaffe bomb Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, the south sends 13 fire engines across the border to help tackle the blaze.

30 MAY 1941



German aircraft bomb Dublin, killing 38, wounding 90 and destroying 70 houses. Germany later paid compensation to Ireland for what it called a military error.

2 MAY 1945



De Valera visits the German embassy in Dublin to express his condolences after the death of Adolf Hitler, outraging the Allied nations.

2 SEPTEMBER 1946



Media censorship is lifted at the end of World War II in 1945. However, the Emergency Powers don't actually lapse until the following year.



What was it?

When the world went to war for the second time in 1939, Ireland opted to remain neutral. But that's not to say the country was untouched by the conflict. Food and fuel were rationed as the Battle of the Atlantic and similar sea skirmishes cut off vital imports. In fact, petrol became so scarce that horses and carts once again grew in popularity, while bicycles became the standard way to get around in towns.

Concerned about security, the Irish government passed the Emergency Powers Act. As well as becoming a byword for the era, this law gave the government unprecedented control. The state could imprison people without trial, censor the media and had a greater say over the economy, freezing wages and restricting trade unions.

In practise, Ireland's neutrality favoured the Allies. American and British aircrews that crashed in Ireland would be free to move around, while Axis pilots were locked up. The Irish authorities also secretly provided intelligence and other assistance to the Allies.



Why did it happen?

When Germany marched on Poland, Ireland had only been a self-ruling nation for 17 years. It only had a small, ill-equipped army and few defences, so becoming embroiled in a global conflict risked the country being invaded and occupied. Relations with Britain also remained tense, with some fearing that asking the Irish people to make common cause with their former colonial masters would result in a civil war like the one that followed the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty.

The Emergency Powers Act was as much as a response to internal threats as external ones. In January 1939, the paramilitary Irish Republican Army (IRA) – who had lost the civil war – reaffirmed that it did not recognise the Irish state or the partition of Northern Ireland, declaring war on Britain. Neville Chamberlain's son narrowly escaped a bombing in north Kerry and several English cities were also attacked. Using the government's new powers, hundreds of IRA members were incarcerated without trial and six were executed between 1940 and 1944.



Who was involved?



Éamon de Valera
1882-1975

As Irish head of state during The Emergency, he advocated that neutrality was the best policy to maintain national unity.



Seamus O'Donovan
1896-1979

An IRA volunteer who led a campaign of sabotage against Britain in 1939-40, even working with Germany's intelligence service.



James Dillon
1902-86

Deputy leader of the Fine Gael party, he was the only sitting Irish politician to oppose neutrality and advocate joining the Allies.

Irish soldiers guard a building blown up by Nazi warplanes in County Wexford in 1940, violating the country's neutrality

What if...

Queen Victoria had been assassinated?

A lone gunman could have plunged Britain into an age of autocracy but kept Hanover out of the Austro-Prussian War

INTERVIEW WITH... CATHERINE CURZON



Catherine Curzon is a royal historian specialising in the 18th century. Her work has featured in numerous publications and she has spoken at venues including the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, and Dr Johnson's house. She is the author of *Life in the Georgian Court and Kings of Georgian Britain*.

What did happen when Edward Oxford tried to shoot Queen Victoria?

Victoria was 21 years old and pregnant with her first child when Edward Oxford made his attempt on her life on 10 June 1840. As was her habit, the queen and Prince Albert were riding in a carriage on Constitution Hill, and Oxford, who was just 18, took two pistols and waited for his chance. When the queen came within striking distance, he fired. Luckily, he missed with both bullets.

Victoria and Albert were unharmed while Oxford was incarcerated in Bedlam and Broadmoor before starting a new life in Australia. Queen Victoria, meanwhile, went on to become a legendary figure among the monarchies of the world. Of course, if one of those bullets had found its mark, history would have been very different indeed.

What would her death have meant for Europe?

It's not unfeasible that the continent would have been changed forever. The violent termination of Victoria's line before she had any children would have had a massive impact on the continental royal families and one of the most significant must surely be that, had Victoria, later Princess Royal, died in the womb when her mother was assassinated, the German Empire would have looked very different indeed. After all, she was mother to Wilhelm II, the emperor who steered his country into World War I.

Had she died, who would have succeeded her?

The next in line to the throne was King George III's son, Ernest Augustus, king of Hanover. Ernest

was massively unpopular in Britain and had been for decades, largely thanks to gossip that implicated him in murder, suicide, electioneering fraud and several sex scandals, including numerous homosexual affairs with members of his household.

These rumours were unfounded and their root could be found in his political opinions. He voted against the Reform Act, opposed Catholic emancipation and even attempted to install a government to replace Wellington's own when he learned that the Iron Duke intended to seek a reconciliation with Irish Catholics. A hard-line Tory who sported a disfiguring facial scar, Ernest was a convenient bogeyman for the British public, and it was a mantle he never truly shed.

Was there any chance that Parliament would have amended the line of succession to avoid Ernest Augustus?

No. Regardless of his popularity, any move to pass over Ernest Augustus in favour of another would have been constitutionally virtually impossible, let alone hugely unwise at a time when the nation was reeling. If they had pressed ahead anyway, the most obvious candidate was Ernest Augustus' brother, Prince Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge. He'd shown no interest in becoming king of anywhere and held no ambitions to rule in Britain.

Despite the enduring public image of Victoria and Albert, there was absolutely no precedent that could have seen the late queen's young husband become king. Less than six months into his marriage, he held no claim to the British crown whatsoever and to appoint him, or even attempt to, would have been a massive misstep by Parliament at a time when they needed unity above all else.

With Ernest Augustus so unpopular, what would have been the impact of his succession?

Ernest Augustus had ruled in Hanover since 1837 and he had made his mark immediately upon arriving in his new realm. He dissolved parliament,

suspended the disputed Hanoverian constitution and ordered that all holders of public office must swear an allegiance to the crown under threat of expulsion. Though his moves did bring a shifting and conflicted political system into line, things would barely have been settled in 1840, when he would be called to Britain to take his place on the throne, renewing the personal union between Hanover and Britain under his rule.

Though it's easy to throw around talk of revolution in any alternate timeline, history suggests that in the case of Ernest Augustus taking the throne as king of Britain, we might have had rather more public sabre rattling than true action. In fact, the nation as a whole would likely have welcomed its new monarch, gripped by patriotism in light of the tragic assassination of its queen.

Would Ernest Augustus have retained popularity in the longer term?

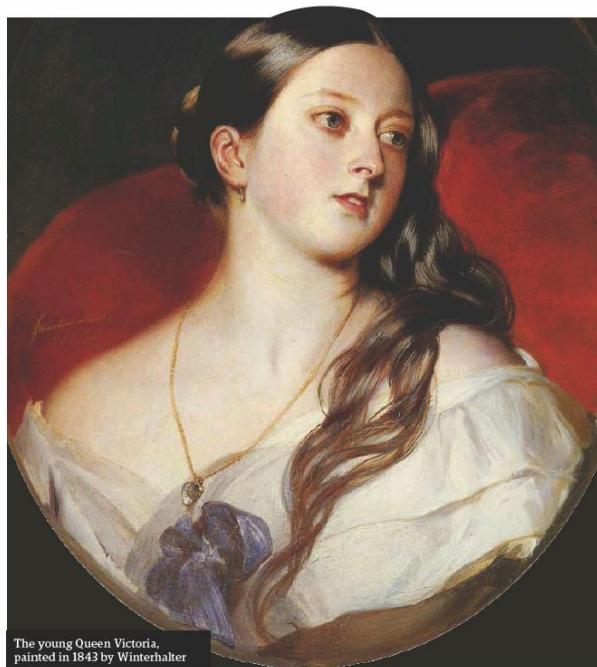
With the new king as hard-line as ever, the honeymoon period would not have lasted. He was likely to prove a dominating monarch, used to the absolutism of Hanover, and he had always held strong views on Ireland. When the Irish potato famine struck, Ernest Augustus would have seen his opportunity to hit the country hard and would have personally intervened to prevent the repeal of the Corn Laws. In protest at this unprecedented intrusion into parliamentary business, Robert Peel would probably have stood down as prime minister and Ernest Augustus would look to steady the ship, appointing hardliner Lord George Bentinck to lead a new ultra-Tory government.

With famine left to sweep through Ireland, the people of Britain would become restless once more. The rumours of scandal might return, with gossip linking Ernest Augustus to the assassination of Queen Victoria. With Oxford long since executed for treason, he would have been known as the king's patsy, used to remove the obstacle of the young queen and rushed to the gallows to silence him.

What if...
QUEEN VICTORIA HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED?

"If one of those bullets had found its mark, history would have been very different indeed"





The young Queen Victoria, painted in 1843 by Winterhalter

"At the first faint stirrings of discord in Britain, Ernest Augustus might order troops out onto the streets"

In 1848, revolutions echo through Europe. At the first faint stirrings of discord in Britain, Ernest Augustus might order troops out onto the streets. Any agitators could expect to be met with swift punishment, and the fledgling British revolution would be crushed before it even begins.

However, with Ernest Augustus no longer present in Hanover, he might have taken his eye off the ball just long enough for revolutionary fever to take hold of his continental kingdom. He would turn to Prussia to stamp out the uprising in Hanover and see it was swiftly terminated. In Britain, however, this move would only make the king less popular as the man who opened the door to the Prussians.

Would Ernest Augustus have attempted any reforms in Britain?

As king, he might have been an autocrat but he wasn't a fool. He was well aware that the people could be won by more peaceful methods. Rather than sweeping reform, he would most likely attempt to stamp his influence on the country through its landscape and culture, a tried and tested approach. Just as he did in Hanover, he would maybe plough funding into the arts, as well as the transport infrastructure, laying the foundations for a rail network that would eventually cross the entire country.

With the careful stewardship of Lord Bentinck, the sovereign would continue his Hanoverian policy of allowing all social classes to hold ministerial office. In practice, however, this promising development might prove to be little more than lip service thanks to the machinations of the ultra-Tory government that would provide the backbone of the monarch's support. Of course, Catholics would be barred from holding any office regardless of class or party.

When Ernest Augustus dies in 1851, what would become of his territories?

Ernest Augustus' two crowns would be inherited by his son, George V of Hanover and Britain. Like his father, George was a believer in absolutism. Aware that many considered him an unsuitable candidate for monarch since he was totally blind, he became determined to make himself known as a hard and uncompromising king and to make his mark on the land.

If his father ascended to the British throne thanks to Oxford's assassination of Queen Victoria, George V would have been 21 years old when he became heir to the throne. The young crown prince had neither bride nor heir, placing the long-term succession in doubt. With a quick marriage now a matter of urgency, the easiest candidate for the role would have been Princess Augusta of Cambridge. As daughter of Prince Adolphus, she was George's cousin, and they would be expected to set to work on producing the much-needed heir and a spare.

Far from a progressive monarch, in a changing Europe George would have been seen as a dinosaur, embodying a royal despotism that was swiftly becoming a thing of the past. From his home in England he might attempt to rule both his territories but the reins of power would never be held firmly, and when the Austro-Prussian War broke out, it would prove a fateful conflict for King George V.

Would George V have brought Britain into the Austro-Prussian War, or would British influence have kept Hanover from becoming involved?

Since George theoretically now rules Hanover and Britain, plunging into the war of 1866 would be easier said than done. The 1701 Act of Settlement included a provision stating, "This nation be not obliged to engage in any war for the defence of any dominions or territories which do not belong to the Crown of England, without the consent of Parliament".

George V, however, was a man who passionately believed in the absolutism of the monarch, and in Hanover it was a power he enjoyed. In Britain, he would find things to be considerably more difficult.

Reminded of Prussia's part in putting down the Hanoverian revolution of 1848, George would appeal for Britain to enter the conflict on their side. Parliament was unequivocal, however: Britain must remain neutral. With any efforts to dissolve Parliament and force British involvement in the war proving fruitless, George V would be faced with a difficult choice. Constitutionally, the personal union of Hanover and Britain was now causing serious headaches for all concerned. After all, how could a monarch be at war in one realm and neutral in another? The answer, of course, was that he could not.

Understandably, it's unlikely that George V would have been willing to abdicate the powerful British throne in favour of the Hanoverian one. Having said that, he probably wouldn't have been willing to give Hanover, which his family had ruled for centuries, to Prussia either. Instead, Hanover's best path would have been to follow Britain into a declaration of neutrality during the Austro-Prussian War. This would have carried the implicit understanding that any belligerent who chose to bloody Hanover's nose might somewhere along the line invite problems with the great superpower of Britain.

Though Prussia was victorious in the short, brutal war, Hanover would likely be left mostly unscathed apart from some small-scale conflicts between citizens who were loyal to one side or the other. At the close of hostilities, George V would have learned an important lesson from Parliament and it's unlikely that he would attempt to force his will on it again.

What if...

QUEEN VICTORIA HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED?



After years in Broadmoor, failed assassin Edward Oxford began a new life in Australia

What would have been the longer-term fate of Britain?

The line of George V would naturally continue to his heir, George VI. Mindful of his father's own troubles as a dual head of state, the new king might have been expected to learn from the problems his predecessor faced and immediately make enquiries about splitting the line of succession between the British and Hanoverian crowns. Ultimately, he would likely choose to abdicate his crown in Hanover – certainly the lesser of the two territories – in favour of his brother, thus keeping control of Britain and continuing the growth of its territories and allegiances. As the years passed, the successors of Ernest Augustus would settle into the role of constitutional monarchs, presiding over a British Empire that spanned the globe.

How would it be different?

Real timeline



● **Assassination attempt**
Edward Oxford fires two pistols at Queen Victoria while she is riding in an open-top carriage.
10 June 1840

Alternate timeline

● **The bullets miss**
Victoria is unharmed and Oxford is seized by onlookers. Oxford makes no attempt to hide his actions, declaring: "It was I, it was me that did it."
10 June 1840

● **Oxford committed**
Due to his severe mental illness, Oxford is acquitted by reason of insanity. Committed to Bedlam, he proves to be a model patient.
10 July 1840

● **Assassin executed**
Oxford is found guilty of treason. On the day of Ernest Augustus' arrival in England, he witnesses Oxford's execution by hanging.
10 July 1840

● **Long live the king**
Oxford hits his target and the 21-year-old queen dies. In the absence of a living heir, Ernest Augustus of Hanover succeeds her.
10 June 1840



● **Victoria's daughter born**
Victoria, later Princess Royal, the baby that Victoria was carrying at the time of the attempt on her life, is born healthy at Buckingham Palace.
21 November 1840

● **George V deposed**
A triumphant Prussia annexes Hanover. To the end of his days, George V refuses to acknowledge his deposition.
20 September 1866

● **Queen Victoria dies**
After a monumental six decades on the throne, the legendary Queen Victoria dies at the age of 81.
22 January 1901

● **Succession of Edward VII**
Edward VII ascends to the throne. His poor relationship with his nephew, Wilhelm II, causes tension between the two nations.
22 January 1901



● **Austro-Prussian War**
When war breaks out, on the continent, Hanover allies with Austria against Prussia. Ultimately, Prussia claims the victory.
1866

● **George V marries**
George V and Princess Augusta of Cambridge are married. Their job is simple: secure the line of succession.
1 December 1840

● **Lord Bentinck appointed**
Facing constant intervention from the anti-Irish king, Peel stands down. He is replaced by Lord George Bentinck.
1 December 1846

● **Ernest Augustus dies**
The headline King Ernest Augustus dies. He is succeeded in both Britain and Hanover by his son, George V.
18 November 1851

● **Austro-Prussian War**
George V cannot convince Britain to enter the war and, faced with possible abdication, elects instead to declare Hanover neutral, too.
12 June - 23 August 1866

● **George V dies**
George V's successor accepts the separation of government and crown in Britain and the conflict in ruling two such very different kingdoms.
12 June 1878

● **Line of succession split**
George VI abdicates the throne of Hanover in favour of his brother and instates constitutional change, splitting the personal union forever.
1 January 1879



Mary Magdalene

The prostitute turned Apostle to the Apostles is an enduring icon of Western civilisation, but we know surprisingly little about who she really was

Early on Easter morning, when it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to Jesus' tomb. She knew where it was. By Jesus' death, all his male disciples except one had abandoned him. It was the women – his mother, Mary Magdalene and others – who watched his agony to its end. They saw his hurried burial too, in a tomb (cut into a quarry), the entrance of which was then closed with a rock.

Now here is Mary Magdalene, after the Sabbath, back at the tomb. She has brought ointment with her to clean Jesus' body. It is John's distinctive version of the story that we hear. The tomb is in a garden. Mary comes alone. She finds the rock pushed away from the entrance and the tomb itself empty. She goes to tell two of Jesus' principal disciples, Simon Peter and the anonymous "disciple whom Jesus loved". They come back with her, confirm her story and leave. There is something almost dull about these men.

Mary, far from leaving, is crying inconsolably. She looks once more into the tomb and sees two angels in white. She turns away and there in the garden is Jesus. She fails to recognise him; she thinks he is the gardener. "Woman," he asks, "why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" She wants only to know where Jesus' body has been

WRITTEN BY ROBIN GRIFFITH-JONES



Robin Griffith-Jones is Master of the Temple at the Temple Church, London, senior lecturer at King's College London and author of *Mary Magdalene: The Woman Jesus Loved*.

put, so she can take it away. Now Jesus addresses her by name.

"Mary." She recognises him and tries to touch or cling to him but he doesn't let her. "Go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my father and your father, to my God and your God."

This is a wonderful Bible story, extraordinarily intimate, at first achingly sad and then, even in its triumph, a scene of poignant renunciation. Mary Magdalene is given the supreme privilege. She is the first to see the risen Jesus on Easter Day and is commissioned to spread the news. No wonder she came to be called the Apostle to the Apostles in later centuries.

We are bound to wonder why was she so privileged? Who was she as a person, and indeed what was she to Jesus, that he appeared first to her? In our own time, speculation has run wild. Surely, we read in *The Da Vinci Code*, she was married to Jesus or they were lovers. 50 years ago, it would have been scandalous to admit how sensuous John's story becomes when he reaches Easter morning. It poses the question whether any other stories tell of Jesus and Mary in such terms.

Defining moment

Independent woman

Mary was among the women who provided for Jesus and his followers as they travelled through Galilee. All these women had been healed by Jesus. According to Luke 8.2, seven devils had gone out of Mary herself. Mary must have been a strikingly independent woman, especially for the time. 'Magdalene' may refer not to a home-town of Magdala or 'Tower' but to her being a 'tower' of strength.

Hero or Villain?

MARY MAGDALENE

Defining moment

Death of Jesus

When Jesus was arrested, almost all of the men in his entourage ran away. It was chiefly the women who stayed to see Jesus crucified outside Jerusalem's western gate. Such executions were deliberately cruel and public. Mary Magdalene was among the women and so was Jesus' mother – they were no threat to the executioners. Here, Mary Magdalene became a silent heroine.

"This is a wonderful story, extraordinary intimate, at first achingly sad and then, even in its triumph, a scene of poignant renunciation"



Hero or Villain?

MARY MAGDALENE

It is hard to know. Though it is widely accepted that Magdalene was a real historic figure, there are very few sources about her. A whole biography of Mary has been spun from almost nothing. She was allegedly a prostitute who came to Jesus to ask for or acknowledge his forgiveness, who knelt before him, washed his feet with her tears, dried them with her hair and then anointed them with perfumed oil. This is another startlingly sensual scene. No wonder Jesus' host was scandalised.

Once assured of Jesus' forgiveness, she became one of the women who travelled Galilee with Jesus

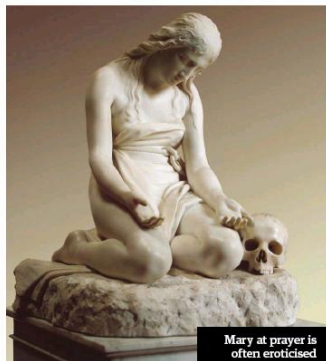
and provided for him out of their own means. Our Christian ancestors will have believed more about this Mary Magdalene. If we combine all the four gospels' distinct narratives into one story, Jesus is anointed not once but three times. First by the prostitute, then by his friend Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. Martha was the more active, Mary the more contemplative of the two sisters they begged Jesus to help their brother Lazarus who had died, and Jesus – in his climactic miracle – raised Lazarus from the dead. This Mary then anointed Jesus' feet with hugely expensive perfume, in anticipation, said Jesus himself, of his own burial. And finally, just a few days later, an anonymous woman anointed not Jesus' feet, but his head.

This is an odd series of overlapping stories. At the end of the 6th century, Pope Gregory the Great tried to bring all their ambiguities to an end. All these stories, he insisted, involved just one woman: Mary Magdalene, the penitent prostitute. First she had wept over Jesus' feet in sorrow and regret, then she had anointed his feet again in honour of his impending death, and then she was considered

worthy enough to anoint his head. No wonder she came to the tomb on Easter Day with a jar of ointment, ready to anoint him yet again. But the buried body was not there and she is granted an incomparably greater honour in the first sight of the risen Lord.

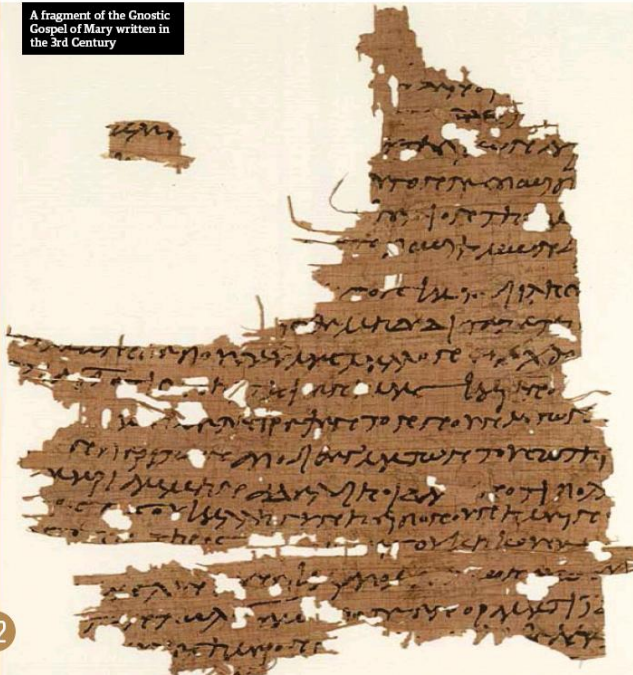
This Mary Magdalene was no longer just an individual in Jesus' entourage. She had become a symbol of all Christians, men and women alike: sinful, penitent, forgiven, restored and finally to be blessed with the sight of Jesus himself. And so she remained in Christian teaching and imagination for over 1,000 years.

However, there were flaws in this story. The penitent prostitute in Luke's gospel is anonymous – Luke does not link her with the Mary Magdalene whom he introduces in his next scene. There is no reason to identify Mary Magdalene with Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus; 'Mary' was simply a common name, shared by Jesus' own mother and at least two of his friends. The Mary Magdalene of the Christian Middle Ages is dissolving before our eyes. This Mary, woven out of the four gospels' different narratives, may have provided a moving story of



Mary at prayer is often eroticised

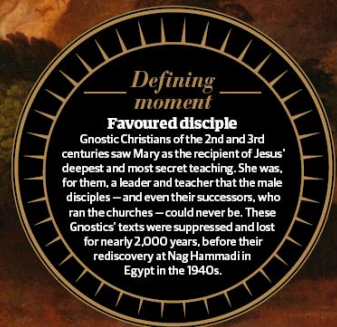
A fragment of the Gnostic Gospel of Mary written in the 3rd Century



Mary Magdalene is often depicted covered in hair as she used her locks to dry Jesus' feet



Jesus backs away from Mary Magdalene



“She had become a symbol of all Christians, men and women alike: sinful, penitent, forgiven, restored and finally to be blessed”

divine grace and human restoration but it seems to have been very bad history indeed.

We should probably go further. That story of human fall and restoration is inspiring but it also portrayed the paradigmatic sinner as a woman whose sin was sexual. In churches dominated all through the Middle Ages by celibate men, this reinforced a terrible stereotype: that the most dangerous of all temptations lay in a woman's sexual power. Churches, tending towards misogyny, found fuel for their fear and anger. One need not be a revolutionary to be glad that the Medieval Magdalene has been left behind. In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church acknowledged that the Marys and the anointing women should no longer be celebrated as a single woman.

Where does this leave Mary Magdalene herself? Within a century of Jesus' death, there were groups on the fringes of the principal churches who saw in Mary a heroine of insight and faith, and she was the leader favoured above all others by Jesus after his resurrection. It may well have been the admiration of women's leadership, in Jesus' day and in their own, which led to the suppression of these so-called Gnostics and their texts.

For such Gnostics, Mary represented the human soul, always seen as feminine, yearning for union with her spiritual Lord. This was intense and intimate but as often as not involved, for those Gnostics who hated the squalor of the physical world, a resolute renunciation of any sexual contact on earth. The rediscovery of this privileged Magdalene, so long lost from view, has become an icon of religious women's liberation in our own time from centuries of misogynistic patriarchy.

The Gnostics' Mary Magdalene was largely created out of John's Easter story. Spiritual tradition states that we too should end where we began, with the mysterious poetry of that Easter scene. John's whole gospel is a story of the new creation. In Genesis, God created light on Day One, “completed” creation on Day Six and put Adam in the Garden of Eden to be its gardener and to name all God's other creatures. Adam is finally given Eve as his companion. According to John's gospel, Jesus “completes” his work at Day Six (Good Friday). On Day One (Easter Sunday) of the next week, Mary comes to the tomb before the light rises. She mistakes Jesus for the gardener, but he calls her by her name, revealing his true identity.

Despite deep-rooted misogyny, a series of women has punctuated John's story: Jesus' mother at beginning and end, Mary and Martha right at the centre. Mary Magdalene is the last and appears in the greatest of these scenes – she is the reader of John's gospel, invited back as a new Eve into the Garden of Eden to meet the Jesus who far transcends any Adam. The ‘new creation’ is complete. The light is rising in paradise.

Hero or villain?

HEROISM

In a man's world, Mary was a brave, independent woman who supported Jesus through the best times and the worst.

VILLAINY

However we might or might not want to judge a prostitute of Jesus' place and time, such judgements have nothing to do with Mary Magdalene.

LEGACY

Mary has been endlessly reinvented, for better and for worse. She has become an inescapable figure in any Christian or post-Christian culture.

Was Mary Magdalene a hero or a villain? Get in touch and let us know what you think

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Time Traveller's Handbook

THE DUTCH GOLDEN AGE

Dutch Republic, 1609-1713

“Where else in the world can one enjoy all of the comforts of life and all the interesting things that a person might find? What other country is there in which one enjoys such perfect freedom?” This is how French philosopher René Descartes described the Dutch Republic in 1631. During the 17th century, the Dutch enjoyed an era of prosperity in which business boomed and culture flourished.

Part of the reason for the Dutch Golden Age is that every other European power was preoccupied with the Thirty Years' War, which lasted from 1618 to 1648. Instead, the Dutch Republic – also known as the United Provinces – had earned their independence from Spain in 1609, leaving the little nation on the North Sea free to dominate. They established a fleet of merchant ships and conquered a colonial empire that stretched across the Americas, Africa and Asia. After the war, revived foreign competition curtailed Dutch expansion. But the country had already amassed such wealth it remained an important power for years to come.



FIG.01

WHERE TO STAY

While The Hague was the seat of power in the young Dutch Republic, the Golden Age was Amsterdam's time to shine. The city emerged as a major trading port, leading the Dutch East India Company to establish the world's first stock exchange in Amsterdam in 1602. Shipbuilding and textiles also became booming industries. This attracted new immigrants, both from the rural provinces and abroad, many fleeing persecution and war, such as Huguenots, Jews and Flemings. The city's population more than doubled between 1600 and 1630, going from 59,551 to 135,439. This led to the building of the city's famous canals as the authorities launched a series of expansions and renovations to accommodate all of the new people.



FIG.02

Dos & don'ts

✓ Practise your religion.
The era is famed for its religious tolerance, with the Republic providing sanctuary for persecuted Jews and Anabaptists. However, Calvinists still dominated and public practise of Catholicism was illegal.

✓ Build a windmill.
The iconic Dutch windmill took off in the 17th century, with over 10,000 dotted across the Netherlands. The city walls of Amsterdam were even crowned with a row of them.

✓ Try the herring.
While ships bring back exotic colonial goods, the trading companies are built on North Sea herring. Readily available wherever you go, the seafood is an emblem of national pride.

✗ Splurge on tulip bulbs.
From 1633, 'Tulip Mania' saw speculators trade the flowers' bulbs for extraordinary sums of money – the most expensive selling for the price of a well-appointed house. However, this spending frenzy couldn't last and the market collapsed unexpectedly in 1637.

✗ Cross the city watch.
A voluntary militia guards the city gates, polices the streets and puts out fires. Companies are grouped by district and the weapon that they used: bow, crossbow or gun.

✗ Dress ostentatiously.
It's a contradiction of the age that while the newly rich merchants enjoyed flashing their cash, out of religious devotion they always dressed humbly in black with broad hats and their wives wore bonnets.

WHO TO BEFRIEND

Frans Hals

While Rembrandt van Rijn is the most famous artist of the Dutch Golden Age, we'd recommend seeking out another Old Master. Frans Hals was a generation older than Rembrandt (although they died within three years of each other) and his pioneering use of loose, free brushwork opened the door for the younger artist. Hals could also offer a fresh perspective on the Dutch Republic. His family fled to Haarlem from the Spanish Netherlands when he was child, and the painter served in the militia during the Dutch struggle for independence.

Extra tip: To meet Hals, you'll have to go to him. With the exception of a brief trip to Antwerp, he lived and died in Haarlem and always insisted that his customers come to him.

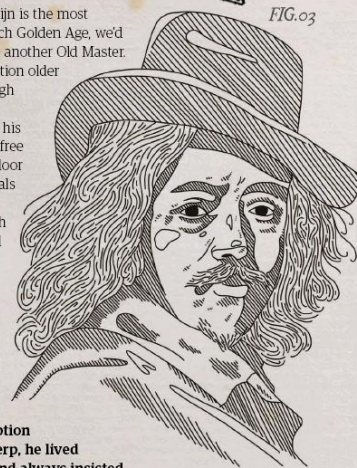


FIG.03

WHO TO AVOID

Johan de Witt

As Grand Pensionary, Johan was the equivalent of the prime minister of the Dutch Republic for 20 years. Presiding over the apex of the Golden Age, he extended his country's commercial supremacy to the East Indies. However, things did not end well for de Witt or those who associated with him. In 1672, the country was simultaneously attacked by English, French and German forces. Blaming de Witt, a frenzied crowd attacked him and his brother Cornelis. There are some accounts of the mob resorting to cannibalism, with claims of eyeballs being eaten and livers being roasted. In any event, the brothers' naked, mutilated bodies were strung up on a public gibbet.

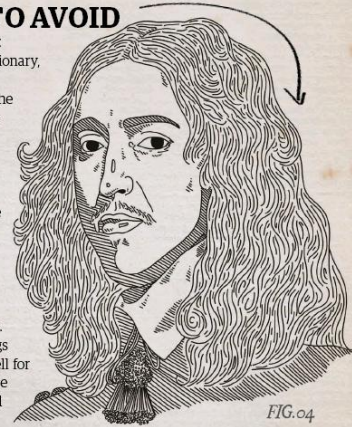


FIG.04

Helpful skills

Shipbuilding

By the mid-17th century, the Dutch had more seagoing merchant vessels than England and France combined. To get ahead during this boom, make sure you build fluyts – long, relatively narrow ships beloved by merchants as they are designed to carry as much cargo as possible.



FIG.05

Banking

During the latter half of the 17th century, wealthy merchants increasingly favoured trading futures over foreign trade. If you've got a head for numbers, try making your fortune in financial services like insurance, currency exchange and trading stocks.



FIG.07

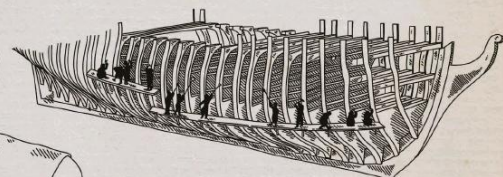


FIG.06

Sugarcraft

Thanks to imports from the colonies, Amsterdam is Europe's largest sugar refinery. Learn to spin sugar and bake popular sweet treats including marzipan, hard candy and biscuits.



Custer's last fight

Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer strikes a dashing, desperate figure at the centre of this dramatic depiction by artist Otto Becker of Custer's last stand. Brandishing a saber, Custer is defiant during his final moments. Historically inaccurate in many ways, this image is perhaps the best-known interpretation of the event.

The winding river

The Little Bighorn River winds in the distance near the Indian encampment as Custer and his 7th US Cavalry detachment come to grief on a Montana hillside in June 1876. An apparent error in this image is the location of the fight, which actually occurred on the other side of the river.

Mounted warriors rush forward

As Custer and his troopers fight to the last in this fanciful image, mounted Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors gallop towards the fray at Little Bighorn. Although the cavalymen were significantly outnumbered, this painting offers the impression of literally thousands of Indians descending on a small band of them.

War club wielded

A Native American warrior raises his club to strike a death blow against a fallen trooper of the 7th Cavalry. The artist also took license in providing the warriors in the painting with some weapons and regalia that probably were not present at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

Firing his colt

A wounded trooper of the 7th Cavalry raises his Colt Model 1873 Single Action Army revolver for a point-blank shot at an attacking warrior. In addition to the bow and arrow, war club and lance, the Native American warriors at Little Bighorn were armed with more than 40 different types of firearms.

Taking a scalp

Mutilation of the enemy dead was a common practice among Great Plains tribal warriors who took scalps to achieve honour. While troopers were certainly scalped at Little Bighorn, claims that Custer was scalped or his body otherwise mutilated are unsubstantiated.



BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN

MONTANA TERRITORY, 25-26 JUNE 1876

As the United States' expanded westwards, they increasingly clashed with the indigenous people who lived there. Native Americans were usually moved to 'reservations', pockets of remote land miles away from home. If they refused to move to a reservation willingly, they were ruthlessly attacked and purged from their ancestral lands by the American military.

Some believed resistance was futile. For instance, the great Sioux chief Red Cloud agreed to a treaty with the United States in April 1868, consenting to relocate his tribe northwards to a reservation in the Black Hills of the Dakota Territory. On the other hand, some Sioux factions – like the Lakota – refused to move, particularly as white settlers encroached on reservations promised to them and other tribes. Among these were the Cheyenne and Arapaho, who joined leaders such as Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull in defying the treaty. The discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874 quickened the pace of white settlement.

In 1876, the US Army was charged with eliminating the threat to white settlement. A unit of cavalry was dispatched to the Montana Territory under the command of Colonel John Gibbon and Generals George Crook and Alfred Terry. They planned to trap the Native Americans and either annihilate them or force them to move.

Terry and Gibbon, hoping to trap their adversaries, headed for the valley of the Little

Bighorn River. The 7th Cavalry Regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel George A Custer, was detached and ordered to follow Sitting Bull.

Custer was offered the firepower of a Gatling gun detachment. He declined, saying the guns would slow him down. He was also offered extra cavalry but rejected them, stating that his men – made up of less than 700 troopers – were capable of handling the mission. When a Lakota village was spotted along the banks of the Little Bighorn on 25 June, Custer divided his men into three groups. Fearing that the element of surprise would be lost, he impetuously ordered an immediate assault.

Major Marcus Reno made first contact with the enemy at about 3pm but a Native American force pushed Reno's dismounted troopers to a hillside, where they were pinned down. Shortly after, Custer sent his five companies towards the other end of the village. Crazy Horse completed an envelopment of them and drove them northward.

Captain Frederick Benteen joined Reno and fought off repeated assaults and their survivors retired after another day of fighting. Custer fought a running battle with his pursuers until his five companies were finally surrounded on high ground a few miles from Reno's position. Custer himself died and his company was annihilated.

Although they had prevailed at the Little Bighorn, the Sioux would find themselves overwhelmed and the Black Hills taken from them within a year.

US 7th Cavalry Regiment
TROOPS C.700

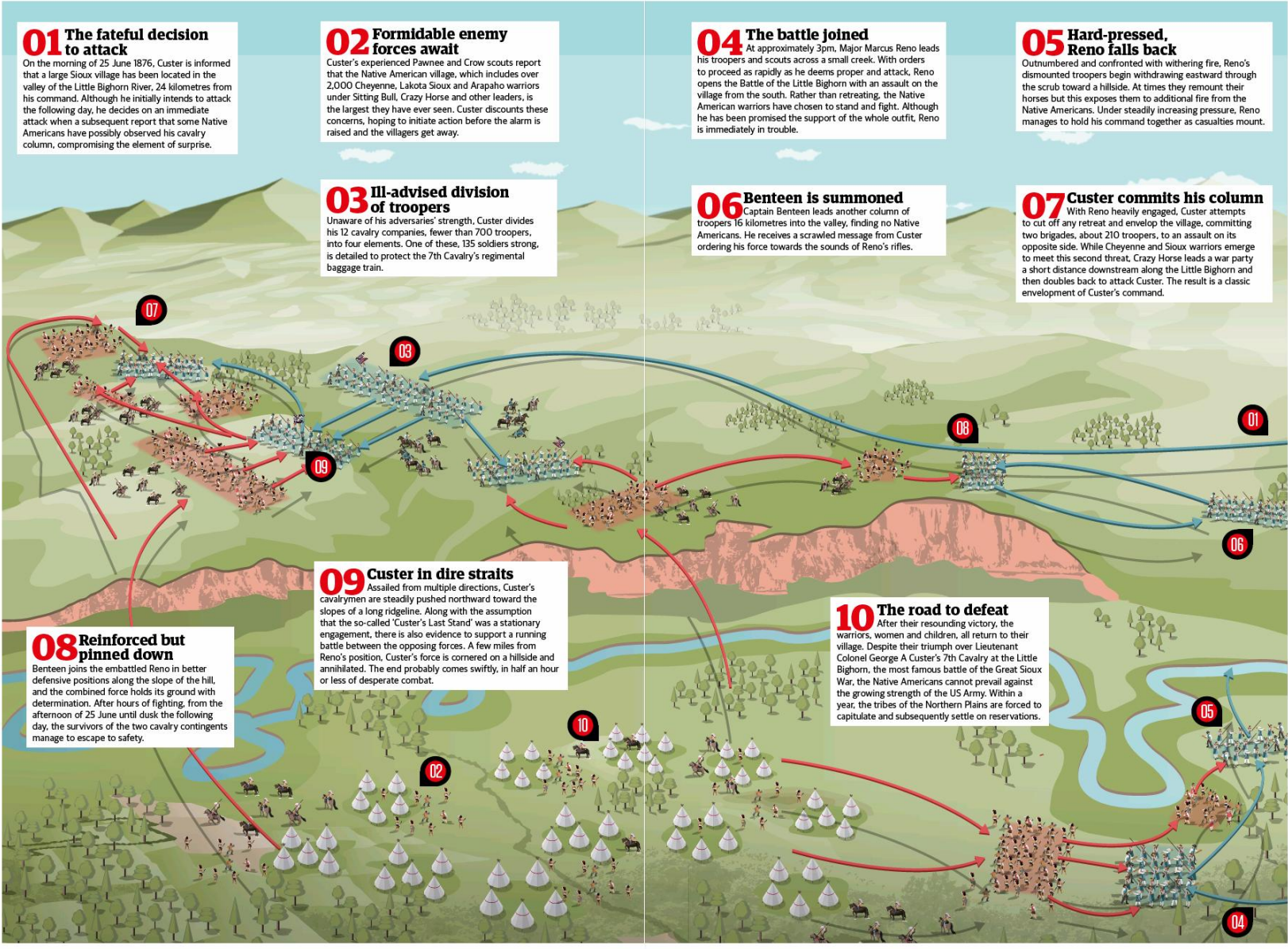


LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE A CUSTER
LEADER
Shown above in 1865, George A Custer was promoted to the temporary rank of brigadier general during the Civil War.
Strengths: He was well-known for his bravery and fighting spirit.
Weaknesses: Custer was impetuous and took needless risks.



7TH CAVALRY REGIMENT
KEY UNIT
The veteran 7th Cavalry Regiment followed its commander, George Custer, to destruction at the Little Bighorn.
Strengths: The regiment was a mobile, quick-strike force.
Weaknesses: They were lightly equipped for sustained combat.


SPRINGFIELD MODEL 1873 CARBINE
KEY WEAPON
A 'trapdoor' rifle, the Model 1873 utilised a hinged breechblock.
Strengths: A short carbine that was easy to transport and had excellent range.
Weaknesses: A low rate of fire due to the single-shot chamber.



Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne & Arapaho
WARRIORS 2,000+



CRAZY HORSE
LEADER
Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull and others led a tribal alliance at Little Bighorn.
Strengths: Crazy Horse was visionary, spiritual, courageous and inspirational.
Weaknesses: He was willing to engage in a war against the odds.



TRIBAL WARRIORS
KEY UNIT
Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors pursued the 7th Cavalry on horseback.
Strengths: They were courageous with great endurance.
Weaknesses: The warriors were often outgunned and outmanned, though not at the Little Bighorn.



RIFLES
KEY WEAPON
Winchester and Henry repeating rifles provided great firepower.
Strengths: Rapid rates of fire for repeating rifles.
Weaknesses: A shorter range compared to single-shot rifles.

REAL CRIME



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On the Menu

MOCK TURTLE SOUP

***Did
you know?***

In an interview in 1962, Andy Warhol said his favourite Campbell soup flavour was mock turtle

Ingredients

- 1 large calf's head
- Oysters
- 1 veal knuckle
- Force meat
- 2 eggs
- 6 mushrooms
- 2 carrots
- 1 large onion
- ½ lemon
- 1.7 litres mutton gravy
- 1.2 litres Madeira wine
- 1 tsp Cayenne pepper
- 8 tbsp lemon juice
- Thyme
- Parsley

SAILOR'S FAVOURITE SUBSTITUTE GREAT BRITAIN, 18TH CENTURY

Don't worry, we're not cooking the melancholic little creature from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Rather Lewis Carroll's creation was an elaborate pun on a common Victorian dish, one that actually had its roots in the 18th century.

British sailors brought green turtles back with them from the West Indies and they quickly became a taste sensation that was in demand. But catching and importing the animals from the Caribbean was expensive, so only the super-rich could afford it. Instead, mock turtle soup was created as an economical substitute.

The main ingredient was a calf's head, which supposedly had a texture similar to turtle meat. However, part of the allure of exotic dish was that different cuts of the animal supposedly tasted like veal, beef, fish, ham and pork. So chefs would try a mix of ingredients to try and replicate the varied taste on a budget, throwing in oysters, ham and even fried brains. This recipe is based on one from the earliest recorded in Hannah Glasse's 1758 *The Art of Cookery made Plain and Easy*.

METHOD

- 01** Depending on how good a butcher you have, you might have to prepare the calf's head yourself. To do this, dispose of the hair, eyes and tongue before cracking the head and carefully removing the brains. Place the brains to soak in the fridge overnight in salt water.
- 02** The next day, slice the calf's head into thin strips and soak them in cold salted water for an hour. Take this opportunity to shuck your oysters, finely chop the onion, carrots and mushrooms, then zest and shred the lemon half.
- 03** Having been thoroughly soaked, the membrane around the brain should have toughened. Done correctly, it should peel off without breaking to reveal a white meat underneath.
- 04** Dice your venison knuckle, cutting it as thinly as you can, then fry it up with the brains.
- 05** When the head has soaked, drain it and add the meat, vegetables and lemon that you've just prepared along with the gravy – lamb gravy

will do if you can't get mutton. Stir in the wine, lemon juice and a sprinkle of salt.

- 06** Add water if the meat is not completely covered by the gravy and slowly bring it to a simmer. Skim any scum that rises to the surface of the water, then cover with a lid and stew everything until the meat becomes nice and tender.
- 07** As if beef, brains, veal and oysters weren't enough, it's now time to cook the forcemeat — a blend of chicken, pork or even fish with grains and herbs, somewhat similar to stuffing.
- 08** Before serving, boil two eggs. When they're ready, scoop out the yolks and use them to garnish the dish along with the forcemeat and a sprig of parsley.
- 09** Traditionally, the soup would be served in the shell of a green turtle, which would be lined with a flour and water paste and heated in the oven. But, as our 18th-century soup store reassures us, "a china soup dish will do as well".

The Mock Turtle and
imagined by Lewis Carroll

REVIEWS

The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month



Book



TV



Podcast



Film



Games



Other

Reviews by

James Hoare, Robert Lock, Thomas Lowrey, Katharine Marsh, Beth Wyatt

TERRACOTTA WARRIORS

The inside story on the imperial funerary statues that came to captivate the globe

Author Edward Burman **Publisher** Weidenfeld & Nicolson **Price** £25 **Released** Out now

China's Terracotta Warriors have enthralled the world since their initial unearthing in 1974, which revealed the ambition of the country's very first emperor in ensuring his protection in the afterlife. Millions of people have flocked to this ancient site at Xi'an in Shaanxi Province in the decades since, global archaeological excitement on a scale

surely only comparable to Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. With a much-anticipated exhibition exploring the warriors now open at Liverpool's World Museum, author Edward Burman has published his take on their mysterious story.

The first work for the general reader to assimilate the most recent analysis, the book aims to engage its audience in this remarkable chapter of China's history in just 220 pages – and succeed it does.

Terracotta Warriors is divided into three parts corresponding to its title: history, mystery, and latest discoveries. The first is a fascinating journey documenting the rise of the Qin dynasty, who in generations transcended their origins as a vassal state to rule all of China. The reign of Qin Shi Huang as the first emperor was short but will be remembered in posterity thanks to his creations.

The book really gets going as we delve into the mystery of why and how the warriors were created as part of the emperor's grand mausoleum complex, believed to span about 100 square kilometres. They were discovered by chance by farmers in 1974 and we now know that there are

more than 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses in the Terracotta Army, alongside other figures including acrobats and musicians.

Yet despite this knowledge, much of the warriors' existence is still an enigma. Could the influence of Greek thought and art in nearby regions have inspired these life-sized figures, unprecedented in China? And was their purpose really to defend their immortality-seeking emperor in the afterlife, or was the intent for them to be used in rituals and ceremonies? Whatever the truth, this is absorbing content,

providing a compelling insight into ancient Chinese culture. Burman not only explores how the Qin ancestors paved the way for Qin Shi Huang – both in terms of his emperors and his mausoleum – but also examines how they saw the world and interacted with it.

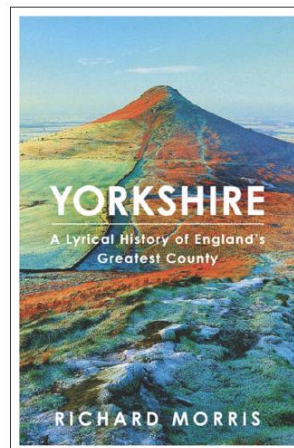
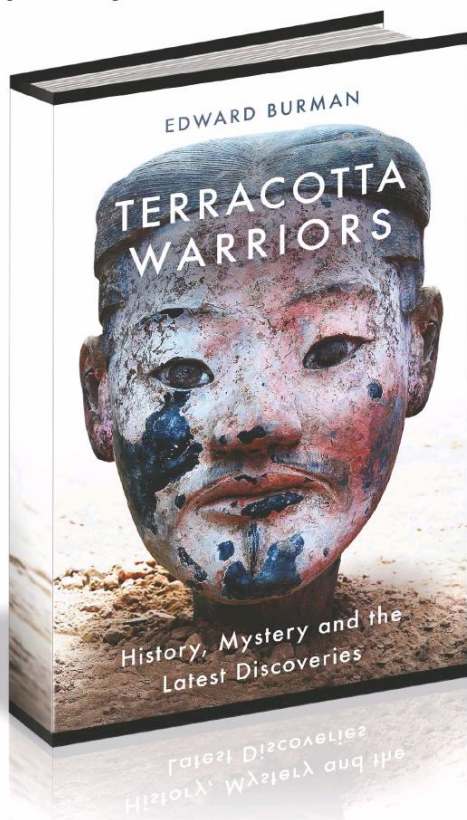
The tales and theories are perfectly complemented by archaeological evidence, with the book rounded off by discussions on the latest research and what else archaeologists yearn to discover in the coming years. Readers new to this period – or who are perhaps

not usually drawn to works focusing on ancient eras – should not be put off as Burman presents complex ideas and processes in an accessible style, and indeed his fascinating book may even encourage you to read more about China's undoubtedly rich history.

There is clearly much more to discover at the site and one day the world may face the tantalising prospect of the emperor's burial chamber being opened. However, as one archaeologist tells Burman, that likely won't be in our lifetimes. What is certain is that we'll be talking about the Terracotta Warriors for a long while yet.

Terracotta Warriors is an impressive wide-ranging work of popular history that is grounded in a wealth of fact and theory.

"Yet despite this knowledge, much of the warriors' existence is still an enigma"



"For an archaeologist like Morris, places are deeply personal"

YORKSHIRE

A leisurely stroll through Vikings, Civil War and Industrial Revolution

Author Richard Morris **Publisher** Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Price £25 **Released** Out now

With his background in archaeology, Richard Morris is at his strongest when he's talking about places rather than people. He conjures an epic tale from the geology of shifting continents and coastal erosion, the subterranean secrets of burial mounds and Roman sewers, and the scars left by 16th-century earthworks and long gone collieries. Furthermore, Morris makes a great case for the significance of Yorkshire as one of the many fulcrum around which a certain amount of British – and even world – history pivots.

This is also a very personal journey and for an archaeologist like Morris, places are deeply personal. His unique perspective and decades of experience in the field bring to life the cool stones of the iconic Whitby Abbey, the crumbling cliffs of Holderness and the windswept moors that inspired the Brontës.

But then the personal also means people, whether Yorkshire's cultural touchstones like aviatrix Amy Johnson, poet Ted Hughes or novelist JB Priestley,

Morris' own extended family history, or lesser-known stories of quiet innovators and revolutionaries who have been largely forgotten outside of their blue plaques on Georgian brickwork. It's there where *Yorkshire: A Lyrical History of England's Greatest County* seems to slip its tether, blether (translation: go on and on) and faff (translation: mess around), and ultimately leave feeling somewhat cast adrift with little more than curios for company.

There's plenty to enjoy and plenty to send you scurrying off for further reading but little sense of purpose or momentum in itself. Some of the tangents read especially tenuous as Morris labours to connect locations he remembers from his childhood to the imprisonment of World War I's conscientious objectors and tales of family members overseas to wider patterns of migration. It's as lyrical as promised, but in promising a single history, Morris falls short.

Insightful
Evocative
Meandering
JH

RETROGRAPHIC

This coffee table collection brings history back to life

Editor Michael D Carroll **Publisher** Carpet Bombing Culture

Price £19.95 **Released** Out now

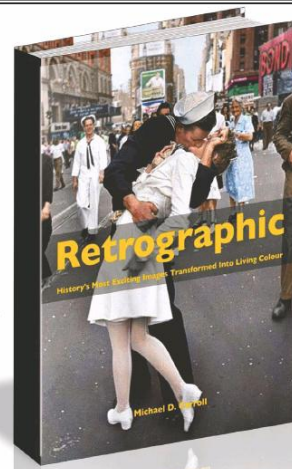
The sailor and nurse kissing in Times Square on VJ Day. The Wright brothers' first flight. 'Napalm Girl' naked and screaming during the Vietnam War. Marilyn Monroe posing as a breeze blows her dress upwards. There are countless photos that have shaped our understanding of events but *Retrographic: History's Most Exciting Images Transformed Into Living Colour* shines a new light on them, which may make you rethink what you know.

Featuring iconic shots that have been painstakingly colourised using digital techniques, we were pleasantly surprised to discover a group of Victorian gentlemen dressed in gaudy colours that we might have assumed were a sombre black. It also gave us new appreciation for Rasputin's alleged animal magnetism to discover his hypnotic gaze was piercing blue. However, it was

the war photography that really moved us with battle scenes from the American Civil War to World War II given a new sense of urgency by stripping away the monochrome filter.

The book is loosely arranged into sections with broad themes but it's better to just flick through. Each shot comes with a detailed description providing background on both the history and the photographers including award-winning names like Dorothea Lange, Alfred Eisenstaedt and Malcolm Brown. The collection also deserves credit for colourising lesser-known shots of historically marginalised groups such as the urban poor and Native Americans that might otherwise be overlooked.

Innovative
Stunning
Revealing
RC



The fight for freedom

With the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr's assassination this month, discover the long struggle against racial inequality in the US with the All About History Book of the Civil Rights Movement. This inspiring story includes Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat in Montgomery, MLK's March on Washington, the making of Malcolm X and more. Beyond

the events, this guide provides background on centuries of slavery in America, the Jim Crow laws in the South and the birth of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Buy the All About History Book of the Civil Rights Movement in shops or online at myfavouritemagazine.com Price: £9.99



Out now!



Publisher: Amberley Publishing

This epic story charts the lives of the absolute rulers of the Ottoman Empire, which lasted for 600 years and amazingly was only ever governed by one dynastic bloodline. Court intrigues, wars and plots provide a backdrop to expanding personal power and wealth of famous names like Suleiman the Magnificent, who conquered as far and wide as Vienna, Basra and Tripoli, to the forgotten Murad VI, a ruthless supporter of alcohol prohibition who died young from drinking too much.



CHRONONAUTS

It's time to change some history

Number of players: 1-6 **Manufacturer:** Looney Labs

Price: £16 **Released:** Out now

Have you ever wanted to change the past? Maybe assassinate Hitler? Or save Abraham Lincoln? Well, hop into your time machine and give it a go.

In Chrononauts, the history-based card game from the makers of Fluxx the aim is to change the past and get yourself back to the right timeline.

At the start of each game, you're given an ID that details what happened in your version of history and it's your job to make it happen by turning over linchpin cards.

An interesting mechanic is that changing these also creates ripples through time by flipping so-called 'ripplepoint' cards. However, these cause paradoxes and it's your job to either get them flipped back or patch them up, depending on your end goal.

Each player also has a mission card, listing artefacts that are collected from the main draw pile. These can range from the *Mona Lisa* to an almanac from the future. Collect three or four and you can win the game.

To expand your timeline, expansion packs are available. For instance, if you want some more recent cards then you can purchase The Gore Years, which goes up to Obama's inauguration in 2008. Or you could change the course of American history with Early American Chrononauts, which is set in the 1800s. You don't even have to play with other people as the game comes with a set of rules for a single-player mode.

This game is ideal for fans of *Back to the Future*, *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* or even *All About History's* own regular What If section. Though in truth, a knowledge of history – or even alternative history – is not required, only a passion for playing fiendish strategy games.

Chrononauts is a fun, fresh way of exploring what happened in the 20th century – and how differently the world could have turned out.



Fun
Chaotic
Fast-paced
KM

SECRET PIGEON SERVICE

How pigeon fanciers earned their wings during WWII

Author: Gordon Corera **Publisher:** William Collins **Price:** £20 **Released:** Out now

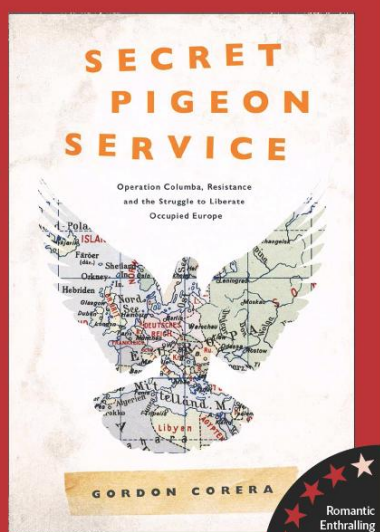
Between 1941 and 1944, a total of 16,554 plucky homing pigeons were dropped in an arc from Bordeaux to Copenhagen. They were part of Operation Columba, a secret British mission to bring back intelligence from those living under Nazi occupation. The messages flooded back, written on tiny pieces of rice paper tucked into canisters and tied to the legs of the birds.

Many of the messages that came back contained vital intelligence detailing German troop movements and even Nazi super weapons, including the deployment of the feared V-1 and V-2 rockets that terrorised London. However, author Gordon Corera reveals that the people sending them were often not trained spies – they were just ordinary people living in occupied territories.

Secret Pigeon Service focuses on the Leopold Vindictive network, a small group of Belgian villagers who took huge risks. Led by an extraordinary priest, their intelligence was so valuable it was shown to Churchill, leading MI6 to parachute agents in to assist him.

Corera brings together both the British and Belgian sides of the Secret Pigeon Service, following the spymasters that get the special wartime operation off the ground and intercepted the Leopold Vindictive's messages. However, the author doesn't shy away from the fact that bitter rivalries in London placed the lives of secret agents at risk.

Despite its title, this book is less about birds and more about remarkable people who were faced with the choice of how to respond to a call for help, and took the decision to resist.



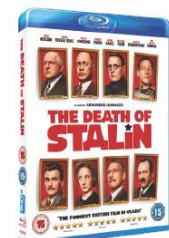
Romantic
Enthralling
Thorough
TL



THE DEATH OF STALIN

Less *Carry on up the Kremlin* than it is *Brazil* with Bolsheviks

Certificate: 15 **Director:** Armando Iannucci **Cast:** Steve Buscemi, Jason Isaacs, Jeffery Tambor, Michael Palin, Simon Russell Beale, Andrea Riseborough **Released:** Out now



bombastically foul-mouthed insults. However, until now the stakes his characters have had to face were no higher than losing face or, at worst, an election. In his latest feature film, *The Death of Stalin*, blunders are just as likely to be met with a bullet to the head as they are stinging barbs.

Set in 1953, in the paranoid world of totalitarian Russia, Kremlin officials gather ostensibly to decide how to maintain control of the Soviet Union after the titular dictator dies from a stroke. However, what actually happens is the group resort to farcical infighting and bloody backstabbing as they each try to appoint themselves as Stalin's successor. This confederacy of dunces is made up of an all-star cast: Steve Buscemi's Nikita Khrushchev is a weaselly politician who doesn't hide his ambition; Jeffery Tambor is Georgy Malenkov, the heir apparent who doesn't have a clue what he's doing; Simon Russell Beale is Lavrenty Beria, the absolutely vile chief of the NKVD secret police; and Michael Palin plays a diplomat with a dash of *Life of Brian* silliness. As the group's vying for power intensifies, the ensemble cast is rounded out by Jason Isaacs as Field Marshal Zhukov.

Armando Iannucci has a gift for lacerating political satire, creating Westminster send-up *The Thick of It* before hopping over the Pond to take down the White House with *Veep*. He is able to find the humour in the bumbling errors of incompetent authority figures as well as tear them down with some

That none of these transatlantic actors adopt a Russian actor is never an issue – and perhaps a blessing. Then again, the fact that Isaacs actually puts on a Sean Bean-style Yorkshire brogue to play the head of the Red Army is, for better or worse, part of the reason he steals every scene.

While the plot is broadly lifted from the French graphic novel by Fabien Nury and Thierry Robin, Iannucci and co-writers David Schneider and Ian Martin ramp up the sycophancy, cronyism and doublespeak that made *The Thick of It* and *Veep* required watching.

Having said that, *The Death of Stalin* is as unsettling as it is entertaining. The horrors of Stalin's regime, as brutal as it was bureaucratic, form the backdrop to all the bickering and scheming. As well as name-checking real events and offering glimpses inside a gulag, guffawing laughter can quickly turn to a shocking gasp as slapstick buffoonery gives way to senseless violence. The last ten minutes of the film are particularly hard to watch as the most successful power play reaches its harrowing endgame.

For the most part, Iannucci successfully walks this tricky tightrope so that it never feels like one of the darkest periods of modern history is being treated glibly. If anything, the film speaks to a deeper truth about totalitarianism, in which any situation where so few people have so much power is as terrifying as it is absurd. Disappointingly, however, the Blu-ray and DVD special features are limited to interviews with the cast and crew and deleted scenes instead of anything a little meatier.

This comedy of terrors doesn't dismiss of the horrors of Stalin's reign but it does serve as a reminder to laugh in the face of trumped-up authoritarians.

Dark
Farcical
Frightening
RL

TOP 5 BOOKS ON THE ERA OF ELIZABETH I



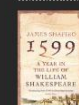
ELIZABETH I: A STUDY IN INSECURITY
Author: Helen Castor
Price: £13
From Elizabeth's precarious upbringing to the religious division that marked her nation and her refusal to marry, Helen Castor argues the Virgin Queen's life was shaped by enduring personal and political insecurity. This illuminating biography is the perfect primer to the queen's life as it offers a short, fresh account in a pocket-sized edition.



THE TIME TRAVELLER'S GUIDE TO ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND
Author: Ian Mortimer
Price: £10
The 16th-century instalment of Ian Mortimer's *Time Traveller's Guide* series offers a vivid and entertaining social history. Written like a *Lonely Planet* guide to Elizabethan England, it offers a broad overview of key events and practical advice, such as what you can expect to eat and how much to pay for it.



THE PIRATE QUEEN
Author: Susan Roland
Price: £10
Elizabeth I presided over the birth of the British Empire with English explorers, merchants and colonists setting off for the New World. But she also sent privateers to disrupt Spain's efforts, attacking ports and robbing ships. Discover the mariners that terrorised the seas to amass great wealth for themselves and the Crown in this utterly thrilling read.



1599: A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
Author: James Shapiro
Price: £10
Perhaps the most famous Elizabethan is William Shakespeare and this unique biography focuses on a pivotal 12 months in which the Bard wrote some of his greatest works. It also looks at the wider events – from the Irish Rebellion to rumours of Elizabeth's death – that made 1599 such an inspiring year in history.

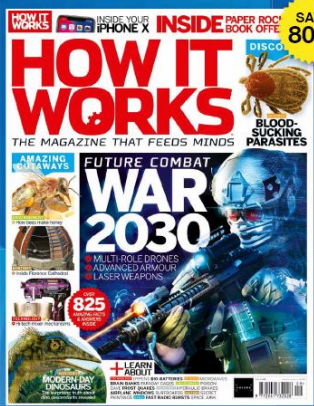


ELIZABETH'S RIVAL
Author: Nicola Tallis
Price: £20
If you think you know everything about Elizabeth's England, try this compelling account of Lettice Knollys, Countess of Leicester. Close friends since childhood, the relationship between Knollys and the queen disintegrated after she married Robert Dudley – the only suitor Elizabeth really cared for. Tallis offers an intimate portrayal of heartbreak and betrayal.

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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen



HACKSAW RIDGE

Director Mel Gibson Starring Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington, Luke Bracey, Teresa Palmer Country United States, Australia Released 2016

What liberties did Hollywood take with the surprising story of a pacifist medic serving in Japan?



VERDICT With minor inaccuracies, this gory heroic tale tugs at the heartstrings

- 01** *Hacksaw Ridge* is based on the true story of Desmond Doss, a combat medic in the United States Army and the only conscientious objector to receive a Medal of Honor during World War II. He saved 75 men during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945.
- 02** In the film, Doss meets Dorothy, his future wife, at the hospital where she works as a nurse before World War II. However, this is inaccurate as Dorothy didn't actually become a nurse until after the war and the couple originally met in church.
- 03** In reality, Doss did refuse to use a gun as he didn't want to take a human life. He was called a coward by his fellow soldiers, who frequently insulted and made fun of him. Having said that, the main bully in the movie, Smitty, is a fictional character.
- 04** The Americans did use cargo nets to help them climb Hacksaw Ridge, and Doss was one of the men to hang them, although this isn't shown in the film. The on-screen ridge was also a lot taller than the real-life Maeda Escarpment they had to climb.
- 05** The final assault at the ridge was delayed so that Doss could read his Bible, as depicted in the film. This is because the assault took place on a Saturday, the day of Sabbath, which is sacred to Seventh-day Adventists like Doss as they usually refrain from secular work.



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Exploring Crete



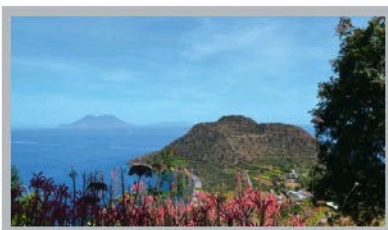
Cruising to the Cyclades



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